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Hour of Peril For President

The Supreme Court Weighs Civil Suit Against Clinton

By R. W. Apple Jr.
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court will hear arguments Monday in a case fraught with political peril and potential personal humiliation for President Bill Clinton — the sexual-harassment suit filed in 1994 by Paula Corbin Jones, a former state government employee in Arkansas.

It is a situation unprecedented in American legal history. No one has ever before filed a civil suit against a sitting president involving his private behavior. This one could force Mr. Clinton to answer questions about his sexual conduct, either in open court or in a written deposition, or it could give rise to a new form of legal protection for presidents while in office.

The court is to consider not the question of whether then-Governor Clinton asked Ms. Jones on May 8, 1991, to perform a sex act, as she alleges.



AP
Paula Jones

It is to weigh a broader legal question: Can a sitting president, any sitting president, be brought to trial while in office, or must the resolution of any civil suit related to private behavior await his term's end — in this case, presumably, 2001.

Ms. Jones's name may not even be uttered by the lawyers Monday. The proceedings are sure to be formal and dust-dry. But of all Mr. Clinton's manifold legal troubles, none have a greater potential than the Jones case to complicate, even to discredit, his second term, which begins Jan. 20.

Mr. Clinton's reputation as a womanizer is already an important element in the relatively poor showing he makes in the polls on "the character issue." Bob Dole's late surge in the 1996 campaign came when he switched his attacks on the president from economic policies to questions of personal probity.

But the Jones case has the potential to amplify whispers of scandal into shouts. In a media age, that would damage Mr. Clinton and the presidency.

The whole issue is suffused with politics. On the advice of Cliff Jackson, a Little Rock political operative with a long history of hostility to the president, Ms. Jones first aired her charges in February 1994 at a Washington news conference sponsored by the Conservative Political Action Conference. One of her lawyers, Gilbert Davis, a former schoolteacher who will state Ms. Jones's case in court, plans to run for attorney general of Virginia, and indeed, he has already pledged to be "a fearless attorney who will fight anyone who does wrong, including the president of the United States."

Mr. Clinton's supporters have worked feverishly to discredit Ms. Jones and her lawsuit. James Carville, the president's former campaign consultant, told a reporter, "Drag a

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Agip Washington/Agence France-Presse
An opposition backer brandishing his crutches Sunday during a rally in the center of Sofia.

Bulgaria Opposition Gets Offer of Talks, But Steps Up Pressure

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SOFIA — Bulgaria's embattled Socialists, rocked by a wave of anti-government street protests, offered Sunday to begin talks with the opposition on holding early elections.

The announcement came from Georgi Parvanov, leader of the Socialists, the former Communists. He said on state television that talks could start Monday.

He made it clear, however, that he expected his party to stay in power for at least another year to "stabilize" Bulgaria, which is undergoing its worst economic crisis since 1989.

That is unlikely to satisfy the opposition, which rallied 100,000 people in Sofia and tens of thousands of others in cities nationwide to back its demand for early elections.

As pressure mounted on the Socialists, protesters in the provinces took to the streets to denounce "hunger and misery," the radio reported.

Dockers, miners and taxi drivers said they would join a general strike that the opposition is planning from Monday.

Mr. Parvanov linked the offer of talks on early elections to an end to the protests. He said the opposition would have to "stop the confrontations" and allow the Socialists to form a new government "with a program for one or one-and-a-half years."

The demonstrators want the Socialists to quit and call early elections instead of forming a new government.

Legislative elections are scheduled for December 1998.

The protests began against a backdrop of political uncertainty. The outgoing Socialist government of Prime Minister Zhan Videnov resigned in late December as accusations mounted that it was responsible for the deepening economic crisis.

The Socialists hold 125 of 240 seats in Parliament. They have rejected an attempt by President Zhelyu Zhelev, who leaves office this month, to mediate talks on early elections, asking him to allow Interior Minister Nikolai Dobrev to form a new government.

Mr. Zhelev has warned that the country could explode in violence if the ruling former Communists do not meet opposition demands. The outgoing leader is due to hand over his office to President-elect Pyotr Stoyanov on Jan. 22.

On Sunday, the crowd in Sofia, waving blue opposition flags, gathered outside the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral and pledged to continue to protest every day until early elections are called.

"For a long time we supported the red mafia," said Ivan Kostov, president of the main opposition Union of Democratic Forces. "Now we will not let it govern any more."

The protest took place near the Parliament building, which was the scene of violent clashes overnight Friday when scores of people — 258 according to the opposition — were injured.

Protesters also rallied in the central Bulgarian town of Gabrovo, in Ruse and Svichov in the north, and in Samokov in the southwest, the radio said.

A first hint of compromise had surfaced earlier in the day when the Parliament speaker, Blagovest Sendov, who is close to the Socialists but not a party member, said he favored early

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The EU Tax Collector Rings

European Customers of Callback Services Face Sales Charge

By Edmund L. Andrews
New York Times Service

European governments are preparing to steal some thunder from one of the United States' flourishing and most subversive exports: a backdoor way of making cheap international phone calls.

Later this month, the European Union is expected to adopt a rule that will allow governments to impose heavy sales taxes on callback services, which can cut the cost of international phone calls in half for European customers by having them dial through the United States.

France and Germany, which impose value-added taxes of 20.6 percent and 15 percent, respectively, on all goods and services, including telephone calls, have already announced plans to start imposing the taxes immediately. Every other European country has asked the European Commission for permission as well, and are all expected to follow suit.

But at least some of the callback entrepreneurs, who are all based in the United States, say the Europeans will never be able to collect.

The customers may well be in France or Germany, but the service and the billing is carried out in such places as Florida or New Jersey.

"I don't see how they will be able to track us," said Eric Doescher, director of marketing for International Kallback, a Seattle-based company that boasts 90,000 customers and about $100 million in sales.

Callback services, most of which are garage-sized start-ups, have soared in popularity and sophistication in the last several years. European government officials recently estimated that industry sales were $500 million last year and would probably hit $1 billion in 1997. Even AT&T Corp., which fretted for years about the legality of callback services, recently jumped into the market.

The key to callback services is a clever way of exploiting the huge spread between telephone rates in the United States — where heavy competition has brought prices down over the past decade — and the rates charged by state-controlled monopolies in most other countries.

Callback services essentially allow callers in Europe to reverse the charges. A customer in Paris who wants to call Dallas, for example, begins by dialing an automated callback service in the United States.

The person hangs up as soon as the American phone rings, and the callback service dials the

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Serb Protests And Sofia: The Difference Is Economic

By Thalia Griffiths
Reuters

SOFIA — Two of Eastern Europe's last former Communist governments, in Bulgaria and in Yugoslavia, are under pressure from protests gathering thousands of people daily in defiance of riot policemen and freezing temperatures.

But while Belgraders are in the streets to demand greater democracy and an end to one-party rule, Bulgarians, who enjoy political pluralism, are protesting against more fundamental problems of poverty and crime.

"We should not forget that the protests in Serbia are based mainly on political demands, and the protests here are based on economic factors and social discontent," said Bulgaria's anti-Communist president, Zhelyu Zhelev.

"The difference is clear, as the average salary in Serbia is $200 and in Bulgaria it is $30," he said.

Serbia's opposition prides itself that after eight straight weeks, its style of peaceful, inventive and deafening mass protests has been adopted by others.

"We have become a world school of peaceful democratic protests," one leader of the Zajedno opposition coalition, Zoran Djindjic, told a rally in Belgrade last week.

"In Bulgaria, the Bulgarian opposition has taken up our model of whistles and eggs in an attempt to topple the Communists."

Anastasia Moser, head of Bulgaria's opposition Agrarian Party, agreed their supporters had taken their inspiration from television pictures of Belgrade, and said she was confident they could hold out as long.

"The rallies are becoming more and more numerous every day," she said. "Participation is growing because public

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Austria Leaders Cut Deal to Let No. 1 Bank Buy No. 2

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

VIENNA — Austria's two governing political parties agreed Sunday on the privatization of Austria's second-largest bank, a move that had threatened to wreck their coalition government.

Bank Austria AG, offering the largest sum of three bidders, will take over Creditanstalt Bankverein AG for 17.16 billion schillings ($1.55 billion), buying some 70 percent of the state's share in the bank.

The decision, which will lead to the fusion of the nation's two largest banks, was reached after the country's two major political parties agreed to set aside 50 years of partisan control of competing banks.

It also brings to an end the nearly six-year effort to sell the 142-year-old Creditanstalt, founded by the Rothschild family to finance the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The decision-making process on the sale was often clouded by political considerations.

In Austria, where key industries and banks have been wholly or partly nationalized for decades, each of the two big parties, which have governed most of the time, has sought to avoid an increase in the other's political influence.

Bank Austria has been historically controlled by the Social-Democratic Party through the appointment of key managers. Creditanstalt's management had been controlled by the conservative People's Party.

The People's Party fiercely opposed a takeover of Creditanstalt by Bank Austria because the city of Vienna, a traditional power base of the Social Democrats, holds a 45 percent stake in Bank Austria. Another 19 percent voting stake is held by the state.

The conservatives, the junior partner in what looked like an increasingly shaky coalition, had argued that the sale of the state's share in Creditanstalt was no real privatization in view of Vienna's important stake in Bank Austria.

The political squabble, played out in the news media for weeks amid mutual mudslinging, ended with a compromise after an 11-hour meeting of the two parties' leaders that began Saturday.

Under the agreement, Vienna's share in Bank Austria will be reduced to less than 25 percent within five years and later further cut to less than 20 percent.

In addition, Creditanstalt employees will be able to buy shares whose worth total 500 million schillings. Their jobs

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Belgrade Hints It May Back Down

The Serbian government has shown the first signs of a political retreat in the eight-week crisis that has brought hundreds of thousands of demonstrators into the streets.

President Slobodan Milosevic's government met Saturday with students who have protested against the regime's refusal to recognize election victories by the opposition.

Hinting that it may be willing to back down, the government gave a statement after the meeting, saying the will of the citizens "must be fully respected." (Page 7)

In Halting Steps, Africa Heads Toward Democracy

By Howard W. French
New York Times Service

ACCRA, Ghana — In 1990 President Francois Mitterrand of France spoke enthusiastically of a "wind blowing from Europe that has begun to sweep Africa." The speech was widely credited with speeding up moves toward democracy afoot in many countries in the continent.

African democracy has experienced a handful of giddy highs and discouraging setbacks since then, leading many to conclude that the public enthusiasm of outsiders like Mr. Mitterrand, who died a year ago, was premature.

But well into what some have called the continent's decade of democracy, last year saw 18 multiparty elections, more than ever in Africa in a single year.

Now, Africans and outside students of the continent's affairs alike say that two sharply divergent groups of countries have begun to emerge: those in which the spirit of true election competition is fast taking root, and others that have tinkered at building a facade of democracy behind which the power of incumbents faces minimal risks.

In a radical change from the continent's past, in which one-party dictatorships were the rule in most countries before the 1990s and presidents for life, declared or otherwise, were commonplace, now no government in sub-Saharan Africa feels secure dodging the question of popular choice altogether.

The year 1996 included striking examples of what advocates of African democracy say are the best and the worst trends. In countries like Chad, Niger and Gambia, former military leaders who seized power at gunpoint stage-managed their transformation into elected civilian leaders. This was achieved only by barring major opponents from running, muzzling critics, and in the first two instances, maintaining tight state control over the elections.

A result in all three countries has been continued sharp political divisions at home, in which the opposition has boycotted the elections or contested the legitimacy of the government, and deeply strained relations with foreign donors.

In Ghana, in the last major elections of the year, Jerry Rawlings, a former flight lieutenant who seized power in in 1979 and, after a brief period of civilian rule, again in 1981, swept to victory last month in his second competitive presidential election. The vote was widely seen as fair. Unlike most African countries, the Ghanaian Constitution limits the president to two terms.

The opposition asserted that Mr. Rawlings's first electoral victory, in 1992, was subject to blatant government manipulation, leading to a four-year parliamentary boycott by the losers.

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Newsstand Prices			
Andorra	10.00 FF	Lebanon	LL 3,000
Antilles	12.50 FF	Morocco	16 Dh
Cameroon	1,600 CFA	Qatar	10.00 Riels
Egypt	£E 5.50	Réunion	12.50 FF
France	10.00 FF	Saudi Arabia	10.00 R.
Gabon	1100 CFA	Senegal	1,100 CFA
Greece	350 Dr.	Spain	225 PTAS
Italy	2,800 Lire	Tunisia	1,250 Din
Ivory Coast	1,250 CFA	U.A.E.	10.00 Dirh
Jordan	1,250 JD	U.S. Mil. (Eur.)	$1.20



NYT
Chief Mabhena, in traditional costume, at her induction ceremony.

Tribal Tradition With a Twist

To Protest, Zimbabwe Village Installs Woman as Chief

By Donald G. McNeil Jr.
New York Times Service

NSWAZI, Zimbabwe — The chief's first meeting with her village since her installation had this agenda:

The names of 20 people who had requested more farmland were read out.

A date was set for an expedition into the surrounding forest to destroy witches' charms hung on trees to create lightning.

There was a debate over why the area gets so little rainfall, which produced arguments that the ancestors were angry because boys had cut down a prayer tree and because Christians were plowing on Wednesdays, the day kept holy by followers of traditionalist beliefs.

A decision was made to send a delegation to a national shrine to inform the ancestors that the father of the new chief, Sinqobile Mabhena, had died and that she had taken his place.

One item was struck: Chief Mabhena did not take nominations for her jury to try land disputes and petty crimes like adultery, because she wasn't sure how many advisers Zimbabwean law entitled her to.

Standing about 5 feet (1.5 meters) tall in her best hat and a bright red jacket, Miss Mabhena addressed her audience of 300 firmly, budgeting two hours to let everyone speak, in an African version of small-town democracy. "I'm used to

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AGENDA



David Aker/Reuters
GREEN BAY IN SUPER BOWL — Tyrone Williams wresting the ball from Carolina's Willie Green. The Packers won, 30-13, Page 18.

Netanyahu Sees Yet More Talks

TEL AVIV (Reuters) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday after talks with King Hussein of Jordan that more work was needed to achieve a deal with the Palestine Liberation Organization on further Israeli troop withdrawals from the West Bank.

Earlier, PLO officials said King Hussein was carrying a compromise proposal to Mr. Netanyahu on a new schedule for Israeli troop redeployments. Meanwhile, the U.S. peace envoy, Dennis Ross, said he was staying in the Mideast "because of the progress that was made today."

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The Rise of a Russian Tycoon

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Money and Power / **Capitalizing on the New Russia**

The Rise and Rise of Boris Berezovsky

By David Hoffman
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — On a recent afternoon, Boris Berezovsky, deputy chief of the Kremlin Security Council, wearing an impeccably tailored business suit, crisp white shirt and red tie, negotiated a deal with Salman Raduyev, a battle-hardened, bearded Chechen military commander wearing combat fatigues.

That day, Mr. Berezovsky won the release of 21 Russian troops taken hostage by Mr. Raduyev's militiamen in a potentially explosive dispute.

The next day, Mr. Berezovsky, again perfectly attired, was honored at a ceremony in Moscow. The Russian Association for the Advancement of Science and Education named him Philanthropist of the Year for his gift of $1.3 million to support travel by Russian scientists to international conferences.

The following evening, Mr. Berezovsky, industrialist and financier, was at his Moscow business club, a richly decorated old mansion, showing a visitor to his office and talking at length about the power of capitalists in the new Russian state.

"I think two types of power are possible," he said, speaking softly, but quickly: "Either a power of ideology, or a power of capital. Ideology is now dead, and today we have a period of transition, from the power of ideology to the power of capital."

More than anyone else, Mr. Berezovsky epitomizes the dominance of the new Russian tycoons and their near total merger with affairs of state. His official title is deputy secretary of the Security Council, responsible for Chechnya — the war-ravaged southern region whose battle for independence from Moscow was halted by a cease-fire last autumn. But Mr. Berezovsky is much, much more.

He is part of a tight circle of financiers and business moguls who, by his own estimate, control half of Russia's economy. They are the new leading oligarchs of Russia, buccaneer bankers and industrialists who are deeply entwined with the government of President Boris Yeltsin. They are reform-minded in the sense that they bankrolled Mr. Yeltsin's presidential campaign against his Communist rival last year, and they generally favor the country's rocky transition to a free-market democracy, which has made them fabulously wealthy.

They all attained wealth in the violent, corruption-ridden, high-stakes competition that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union five years ago, fighting for the juiciest pieces of the fallen empire. Virtually all of them capitalized on obtaining, often for next to nothing, a valuable chunk of former state property to exploit. The scramble for wealth and power was carried out with brutal means, often including car bombs and assassinations.

As the grasp of the Russian state continues to weaken, the role of the financial and industrial clans within it continues to grow. While the state seems helpless to meet even such basic obligations as paying soldiers on time, mighty corporate interests are on the march. They run airlines, television stations, auto factories, newspapers, energy monopolies and more. They get favorable treatment from a Kremlin that still picks the winners and losers in the economy, and they give favors back to those in power — such as huge campaign contributions and flattering television news coverage.


Michael Evstafiev/Reuters

More than anyone else, Mr. Berezovsky epitomizes the dominance of the new Russian tycoons and their near total merger with affairs of state.

In their view, there is virtually no barrier between their interests and those of Russia itself. "I think that if something is advantageous to capital," Mr. Berezovsky said, "it goes without saying that it's advantageous to the nation. It's capital that is in a condition, to the greatest extent, to express the interests of the nation."

Critics charge that the new capitalists have gone too far and used illicit or criminal means to grab their new wealth. Grigori Yavlinsky, leader of the centrist Yabloko faction in the State Duma, wrote recently that the "main characteristic" of Russia's power structure is that it is "profit-seeking."

Mr. Berezovsky, 50, epitomizes the new blend of Russian magnate and politician. He and several other tycoons who benefited handsomely from Russia's free-market reforms and the privatization of state property poured millions of dollars into Mr. Yeltsin's campaign. According to Mr. Berezovsky, they believed they were acting not only in Russia's interest but defending themselves, because they feared a Communist victory would wipe them out.

"I felt this especially acutely on the eve of the presidential election," Mr. Berezovsky said. "I felt that everything we've done is under threat, because, completely realistically, the Communists could have come to power."

Money and power are the common denominator of this clan, many of whom were rivals in the past. In addition to Mr. Berezovsky, they include Vladimir Gusinsky, a banking and media mogul who controls Russia's main commercial television station; Vladimir Potanin, now a deputy prime minister, who was head of Oneximbank; Mikhail Khodorovsky of the giant Menatep group; Pyotr Aven, one of the original Kremlin reformists who is now president of Alpha Bank; Alexander Smolensky of Stolichny Bank and Vladimir Vinogradov of Inkombank.

AFTER the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, last year, they played a key role in persuading Mr. Yeltsin to rehire Anatoli Chubais, the former privatization chief, to run his re-election campaign. Then they helped persuade Mr. Yeltsin to dump the reactionaries in his entourage, including his longtime personal bodyguard, Alexander Korzhakov.

Then they recruited as Security Council chief — and later helped depose — the charismatic Alexander Lebed, whose brief alliance with Mr. Yeltsin lifted the president's vote tally.

After the election, the group discussed who among them should enter the government at a senior level to deal with economic affairs, according to one source. They settled on Mr. Potanin because he is an ethnic Russian; most of the rest of them, including Mr. Berezovsky and Mr. Gusinsky, are Jewish, and they feared a nationalist backlash.

Russia's new tycoons are not public heroes. Popular resentments run deep over the vast sell-off of state property, which made many of them rich and left millions of Russians in poverty. The change was "painful" for the rich, too, Mr. Berezovsky said, because "they place themselves under bullets." He knows; he narrowly escaped a 1994 car-bomb assassination attempt that beheaded his driver.

At the center of Mr. Berezovsky's empire is his holding company, Logovaz, through which he has controlling or partial interests in banks; the powerful public television channel ORT; the newspaper Nezavisimaya Gazeta; Transaero, a successful Russian airline; a Moscow television station; the weekly magazine Ogonyok; and Sibneft, Russia's seventh largest oil company. He also is involved in managing Russia's national airline, Aeroflot.

But his most controversial venture has been into government. Why does one of Russia's biggest tycoons want to be on the Security Council, handling the postwar headaches of Chechnya?

Mr. Berezovsky said he took the job because "Chechnya today is the biggest destabilizing political factor in Russia."

Hebron Talks Butt Up Against a Larger Issue

Test of Wills Over Future of West Bank

By Serge Schmemann
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — What began as complex wrangling over who will patrol which street in Hebron has evolved during the last three months into a far more elemental and far more fateful test of wills between Benjamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat over the very foundations of the Israeli-Palestinian effort to make peace.

Mr. Arafat, the Palestinian leader, wants a firm commitment now that Mr. Netanyahu's government will comply with a fundamental tenet of the Israeli-Palestinian agreements by withdrawing from most of the West Bank within a year.

For Mr. Netanyahu's rightist constituents, that would mean surrendering Jewish lands and a critical bargaining lever in even more difficult issues ahead, such as what to do about Jerusalem or Israel's borders.

NEWS ANALYSIS

After weeks of maneuvering, according to officials close to the negotiations, all that remains to seal an agreement is a political decision by the Israeli and Palestinian leaders. Without it, they said, there is no point in continuing to negotiate.

"If we finally do get an agreement, we'll get not only Hebron, but also a gateway and a roadmap to the rest of the interim agreement," said an American official. He did not give the alternative, but it would be hard to avoid new tension and confrontation.

The details of the withdrawal from most of Hebron, by all accounts, have been fully resolved. The issue now holding up agreement is a demand by Mr. Arafat for a written guarantee from the United States that Israel will abide by existing agreements to withdraw from additional West Bank areas in three stages, ending next September.

Mr. Netanyahu has agreed to set a date for the first stage, but has refused to propose a deadline for completing the Israeli withdrawals.

After agreeing to cede control over most of Hebron, an ancient town that many of Mr. Netanyahu's religious and nationalist constituents regard as second only to Jerusalem in importance for the Jews, a commitment to pull back from largely uninhabited tracts of the West Bank might not seem so difficult.

Yet, however sensitive, most politicians of the left and of the right agree that withdrawal from Hebron is unavoidable, because no ideology can change the fact that 150,000 Palestinians live there. The only issue was how to accommodate a cluster of Jewish enclaves in the city's center.

By contrast, the "further redeployments," as the disputed obligations are termed, go to the very structure of the breakthrough agreements reached in Oslo between Mr. Arafat and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in September 1993. The Olso "declaration of principles" established a series of stages in which the Palestinians would gain control over occupied lands in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

The first stage was control over Gaza and Jericho. The second stage, which began in September 1995, included Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian towns in the West Bank, followed by the election of a Palestinian Legislative Council, then by further withdrawals in three stages over 18 months.

The final pullback was to be made in September 1997.

At the same time, the two sides were to engage in "final status" talks over Jerusalem, the Jewish settlements and borders, with the entire process concluding in May 1999.

Under the Oslo accord, the Palestinians were to enter final status talks after already gaining control of as much as 85 percent of the West Bank. Currently, the Palestinian Authority has direct control over towns that amount to 7 percent of the area of the West Bank, and administrative control in other settled areas that cover about 25 percent.

In his writings before he came to office, Mr. Netanyahu outlined a different vision. He visualized granting the Palestinians control over their population and areas in which they lived, but keeping overall control and sovereignty in Israeli hands, presumably leaving vacant areas of the West Bank free for Jewish settlement.

In effect, he saw an arrangement much like the existing one.

On his election last spring, Mr. Netanyahu did not hide his aversion to the Oslo agreements, but pledged to abide by them.

Mr. Arafat's initial misgivings about the new leader soon turned to deep mistrust when Mr. Netanyahu suggested moving directly to final status talks after Hebron.

To the Palestinians, that sounded like Mr. Netanyahu wanted to avoid any further redeployments and to use territory as a leverage in the final talks.

So, from the very outset of negotiations over Hebron, Mr. Arafat demanded that any agreement be accompanied by written American assurances that Mr. Netanyahu would keep to the Oslo timetable.

Mr. Netanyahu agreed to give a date for the first redeployment, but Mr. Arafat demanded dates for all three. As Hebron issues came to be resolved, the battle focused on the timetable for future withdrawals.

Mr. Arafat refused to budge.

Members of Mr. Netanyahu's coalition, who until then, like most Israelis, had focused on more tangible issues like Hebron and security and had not studied the agreements, came to realize the importance of the issue. If the government agreed to cede much of the West Bank before final status talks, the nationalist dream of the "Land of Israel," of Jewish settlements spreading across Judea and Samaria, was over. And the government's biggest bargaining chip on the question of Jerusalem and settlements was gone.

From the outset, Mr. Netanyahu had promised to hold a vote on any agreement by his cabinet, which includes ministers from all the major factions in his coalition.

Seven of the 18 ministers have already said they will not vote for the Hebron agreement on principle.

Now other ministers, including Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and Communications Minister Livor Livnat, have declared that they will not support an agreement if it includes a deadline for additional withdrawal.

Arab Frustration With Israel Is Turning to Rage

By John Lancaster
Washington Post Service

CAIRO — A Jordanian newspaper columnist summed up the sorry state of Arab-Israeli relations with an anecdote about a shopkeeper. Enraged by the hard-line diplomacy of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, the shopkeeper had posted a sign announcing, "No Jews, no dogs."

When the columnist, Rami Khouri, suggested to the shopkeeper that some customers might find the sign offensive, the man replied, "Indeed, some people objected to the reference to dogs," Mr. Khouri wrote in the Jordan Times.

While deploring the anti-Semitism behind the remark, Mr. Khouri described it as symptomatic of Arabs' anger over what they see as Mr. Netanyahu's efforts to roll back Israel's commitments to its neighbors under terms of previous peace agreements. "We should not deny the association between the extreme new attitudes in Jordan and extreme new policies in Israel," he wrote.

Arab political leaders have taken note of the popular mood. Six months after Mr. Netanyahu's victory over Shimon Peres, the Labor Party leader, moderate Arab states such as Egypt and Jordan are pressing their diplomatic campaign against Israel on all fronts — freezing steps toward "normalization," raising the temperature of anti-Israel rhetoric in semiofficial newspapers and filling the air with prophecies of doom.

In light of the current impasse between Israel and the Palestinians over the future of Hebron, the last major West Bank city still occupied by Israel, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt last week described Arab frustration toward Israel as a potential "atomic bomb."

Such statements contain an element of hyperbole. For all the fulminations of Arab leaders in Egypt, Jordan and elsewhere, and the growing fury of their people, few predict a return to the large-scale conflagrations of the past.

"I don't think that the international community will accept the military option one way or another from either side," said a diplomat from a pro-Western Arab country who spoke on condition of anonymity. "I don't think the international community will accept prolonged violence. So there are new parameters to this which didn't exist before."

Other constraints include Israel's undisputed military superiority over its neighbors; the desire to remain on good terms with Israel's superpower patron, the United States, and growing domestic and international pressure for political and economic reforms that have long taken a back seat to the struggle against Israel. "They are basically at a loss," a Western diplomat said recently. "They don't have a lot of room to maneuver."

Extremist groups, however, operate with no such constraints. Thursday night's unclaimed bombings in Tel Aviv, which wounded 13 people, may have been the opening salvo in a new terror campaign by Palestinian radicals. In southern Lebanon, where Israeli occupation forces are battling Hezbollah guerrillas backed by Syria and Iran, tensions are rising following the unexplained launch Wednesday of a Katyusha rocket into northern Israel.

In a region that has witnessed four major Arab-Israeli wars since the founding of the Jewish state in 1948, the deterioration in relations between Israel and its Arab neighbors has generated understandable alarm.

After initially promising to give Mr. Netanyahu the benefit of the doubt, both Mr. Mubarak and King Hussein of Jordan have accused the Israeli leader of betraying their trust.

They say he has failed to abide by the "land for peace" principle set forth at the U.S.-sponsored Madrid peace conference in 1991 — by which Israel would return captured Arab territory and Arab states would peacefully accept Israel as a neighbor. That conference was followed by Israel's signing of peace accords with the Palestinians in 1993 and 1995 and with Jordan in 1994. Egypt made peace with Israel in 1979.

The door also appeared to be opening to a pact with Syria, which demands the return of the Golan Heights, captured by Israel in 1967. But, citing security concerns, Mr. Netanyahu has said that Israel will not return the Golan Heights and has delayed Israeli troop withdrawals from the West Bank, a pullback that was required by the peace accords.

In June, shortly after Mr. Netanyahu's election, Arab leaders held a summit meeting in Cairo that produced a mildly worded threat to "reconsider" ties with Israel if its new government did not follow through on "land for peace."

So the breakdown in trust between Israel and the Palestinians — culminating in three days of open warfare last fall — has fueled a surge of Arab anger.

In responding to this anger, Egypt and other moderate Arab states have not hesitated to play the normalization card. Talks on regional issues such as arms control, water resources, environmental issues and refugees have all but ground to a halt.

The Gulf state of Qatar — with Egypt's hearty approval — has postponed plans to open trade missions in Tel Aviv.

"You're not going to talk about water sharing or regional economic cooperation or the environment when there's no peace process," an Arab official observed. While such measures may seem relatively mild, they are painful to Israelis eager to break out of their isolation in the Middle East.

TRAVEL UPDATE

U.S. Orders Inspection of 747s

SEATTLE (Reuters) — The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration has ordered an inspection of fuel pump wiring systems in older Boeing 747 jumbo jets to look for chafed wiring that could cause an explosion.

The move is part of the agency's continuing inquiry into the cause of the explosion that destroyed TWA Flight 800 off Long Island, New York, on July 17, killing all 230 people on board.

The agency said that the emergency directive would go into effect Jan 21. It covers the 433 oldest Boeing 747s still in service and gives airlines 120 days to do the inspections.

Shanghai city officials have seized large quantities of hairy clams blamed for a rise in the hepatitis rate last fall, about 10 percent to 20 percent higher than in the same period in 1995, the Business News reported Sunday. *(Reuters)*

The international airport of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates reported a record 8.5 million passengers in 1996, making it the second busiest in the region after Cairo. *(AFP)*

Torrential rainfall in central and southern Greece caused floods, mud slides and power outages Sunday, but no fatalities were reported. *(AP)*

This Week's Holidays

Banking and government offices will be closed or services curtailed in the following countries and their dependencies this week because of national and religious holidays:

MONDAY: Puerto Rico, Tanzania.
TUESDAY: Sri Lanka.
WEDNESDAY: Japan, Malawi.

Sources: J.P. Morgan, Reuters, Bloomberg.

WEATHER

Forecast for Tuesday through Thursday, as provided by AccuWeather.



North America
The extreme cold will ease across the middle of the continent, but colder than normal weather will continue from the Northeast to the Pacific Northwest. The cold air will also be dry with no snow or ice in New York City Tuesday and Wednesday. Los Angeles will be breezy and cool.

Europe
Much of Europe will be dry with near to above normal temperatures Tuesday through Thursday. However, showers will affect the British Isles Wednesday and Thursday. Southern Italy and Greece will start the period wet, then drier weather returns by Thursday. Cold in western Russia.

Asia
Northeast China, Manchuria and both Koreas, including Beijing and Seoul, will be mainly dry and cold through Thursday. However, flurries could affect Beijing Thursday. Tokyo will be rather mild Tuesday, then turning chillier into Thursday. Seasonable in Singapore and Hong Kong.

Europe

	Today High	Today Low	Tomorrow High	Tomorrow Low
	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F
Algarve	19/66	12/53 pc	18/64	10/50 sh
Amsterdam	7/44	2/35 pc	6/43	3/37 c
Andorra	10/50	1/34 sh	5/41	-3/27 pc
Athens	16/61	11/52 sh	14/57	8/46 sh
Barcelona	11/52	3/37 pc	11/52	4/39 pc
Belgrade	3/37	-3/27 c	3/37	-1/31 pc
Berlin	7/44	4/39 c	8/46	6/43 c
Brussels	6/43	1/34 s	6/43	2/35 s
Budapest	3/37	-1/31 pc	5/43	3/37 pc
Copenhagen	4/39	-1/31 c	3/37	2/35 c
Costa Del Sol	18/64	8/46 s	18/66	9/48 pc
Dublin	13/55	10/50 c	13/55	9/48 c
Edinburgh	11/52	9/48 pc	12/53	8/46 c
Florence	8/46	2/35 pc	9/48	3/37 pc
Frankfurt	6/43	3/37 c	7/44	4/39 c
Geneva	8/46	1/34 s	9/48	3/37 s
Helsinki	2/35	0/32 sn	3/37	-1/31 pc
Istanbul	10/50	7/44 c	10/50	7/44 sh
Las Palmas	21/70	17/62 c	20/68	18/61 t
Lisbon	18/61	11/52 pc	18/61	10/50 c
London	14/57	7/44 pc	13/55	8/46 s
Madrid	11/52	0/32 s	12/53	1/34 pc
Mallorca	9/48	4/39 pc	11/52	6/43 pc
Milan	7/44	-1/31 s	9/48	2/35 s
Moscow	-10/15	-11/13 sn	-2/29	-4/25 sn
Munich	7/44	0/32 s	9/48	3/37 s
Nice	12/53	5/41 s	13/55	7/44 pc
Oslo	-2/29	-7/20 c	0/32	-2/29 c
Paris	6/43	-2/29 s	8/46	4/39 s
Prague	5/41	1/34 pc	7/44	3/37 pc
Reykjavik	-1/31	-1/31 sn	1/34	-4/25 sn
Rome	13/55	4/39 pc	13/55	5/41 pc
St. Petersburg	-3/27	-3/27 sn	0/32	-2/29 sn
Stockholm	-2/29	-6/22 c	1/34	0/32 pc
Strasbourg	9/48	4/39 s	11/52	6/43 pc
Tallinn	2/35	0/32 sn	3/37	-1/31 pc
Venice	7/44	0/32 pc	8/46	3/37 pc
Vienna	6/43	1/34 pc	8/46	4/39 pc
Warsaw	3/37	2/35 sh	5/41	2/35 c
Zurich	8/46	3/37 s	9/48	5/41 s

Middle East

Abu Dhabi	23/73	12/53 c	25/77	12/53 s
Beirut	20/73	18/64 s	24/75	16/61 pc
Cairo	28/82	16/61 s	23/73	11/52 s
Damascus	20/68	7/44 s	18/61	8/46 sh
Jerusalem	18/64	8/46 pc	13/55	4/39 pc
Luxor	28/79	15/59 pc	28/82	13/55 c
Riyadh	24/75	10/50 s	23/73	11/52 pc

North America

	Today High	Today Low	Tomorrow High	Tomorrow Low
	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F
Anchorage	1/34	-4/25 sn	3/37	-2/29 sn
Atlanta	4/39	-3/27 pc	4/39	1/34 pc
Boston	-1/31	-7/20 pc	1/34	-5/24 pc
Chicago	-11/13	-16/6 pc	-4/25	-12/11 c
Dallas	-4/25	-8/18 c	2/35	2/35 c
Denver	-7/20	-14/7 c	-4/25	-19/-2 sf
Detroit	-10/15	-14/7 c	-2/29	-12/11 c
Honolulu	28/79	19/66 pc	28/82	21/70 pc
Houston	3/37	-1/31 r	7/44	6/43 c
Los Angeles	18/61	4/39 c	18/61	6/43 c
Miami	23/73	17/62 pc	25/77	17/62 pc
Minneapolis	-1/30	-22/-7 pc	-9/16	-17/2 pc
Montreal	-7/20	-12/11 c	-6/24	-13/9 pc
Nassau	25/77	17/62 pc	24/75	17/62 pc
New York	0/32	-3/26 pc	3/37	-3/27 pc
Orlando	15/64	10/50 pc	17/62	11/52 sh
Phoenix	14/57	7/44 sh	14/57	5/41 pc
San Fran.	10/50	3/37 pc	11/52	5/41 sh
Seattle	5/41	-2/29 s	6/43	0/32 pc
Toronto	-4/25	-9/16 sn	0/32	-9/16 pc
Vancouver	6/43	2/35 sh	6/43	-1/31 sh
Washington	1/34	-8/18 pc	4/39	-3/27 pc

Asia

	Today High	Today Low	Tomorrow High	Tomorrow Low
	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F
Bali	31/88	23/73 sh	32/89	22/71 t
Bangkok	31/88	21/70 pc	31/88	21/70 pc
Beijing	-2/29	-11/13 s	-3/27	-11/13 pc
Bombay	29/82	16/61 s	27/80	16/61 s
Calcutta	23/77	11/52 s	24/75	11/52 s
Chiang Mai	31/88	17/62 s	31/88	17/62 s
Colombo	29/84	21/70 pc	29/84	21/70 pc
Hanoi	21/70	14/57 c	21/70	16/61 c
Ho Chi Minh	32/89	22/71 pc	32/89	22/71 pc
Hong Kong	20/68	12/53 pc	18/64	12/53 pc
Islamabad	18/64	2/35 pc	15/59	1/34 pc
Jakarta	29/84	24/75 c	29/84	23/73 t
Karachi	24/75	8/46 s	24/75	7/44 s
K. Lumpur	31/88	22/71 pc	31/88	22/71 c
K. Kinabalu	31/88	26/79 pc	31/88	24/75 pc
Manila	29/84	20/68 c	29/84	20/68 pc
New Delhi	29/84	4/39 s	17/62	2/35 sh
Phnom Penh	30/86	21/70 pc	29/84	22/71 pc
Phuket	31/88	21/70 pc	31/88	21/70 pc
Rangoon	30/86	20/68 pc	32/89	21/70 pc
Seoul	6/43	-2/29 pc	1/34	-9/16 s
Shanghai	10/50	5/43 pc	7/44	1/34 r
Singapore	30/86	25/77 pc	30/86	24/75 pc
Taipei	17/62	11/52 pc	18/61	11/52 pc
Tokyo	10/50	3/37 r	11/52	3/37 pc
Vientiane	30/86	14/57 c	21/70	16/59 c

Africa

Algiers	14/57	8/43 c	16/61	5/41 pc
Cape Town	28/82	18/61 s	28/78	16/61 s
Casablanca	23/73	13/55 pc	19/66	10/50 t
Harare	28/82	11/52 s	29/84	11/52 s
Lagos	30/86	23/73 pc	29/84	23/71 t
Nairobi	29/84	12/53 s	31/88	12/53 s
Tunis	13/55	6/46 r	14/57	6/43 c

Latin America

Buenos Aires	32/89	17/62 s	30/86	18/64 s
Caracas	29/84	22/71 pc	29/84	22/71 pc
Lima	26/79	20/68 pc	27/80	20/68 c
Mexico City	17/62	7/44 pc	20/68	8/43 pc
Rio de Janeiro	28/82	22/71 sh	27/80	22/71 sh
Santiago	31/88	8/46 s	31/88	13/55 s

Oceania

Auckland	19/66	12/53 pc	19/66	13/55 pc
Sydney	21/70	13/55 s	23/73	16/61 s

Legend: s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, Hce, W-Weather. All maps, forecasts and data provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 1997

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THE AMERICAS

Democrats and Republicans Escalate the Gingrich War

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — House Republicans and Democrats traded bitter accusations Sunday over the ethics case against Newt Gingrich, the speaker, making their proclamations of plans to cooperate in this new Congress ring increasingly hollow.

The Democrats, including the minority leader, Richard Gephardt, spoke of a "cover-up" in criticizing the decision by the Republican-dominated ethics committee to delay and compress a public hearing on Mr. Gingrich to the days leading up to President Bill Clinton's inauguration on Jan. 20.

One Democrat, Martin Frost of Texas, said the Republicans had "totally poisoned the well for any possible bipartisan cooperation."

In turn, Republicans asserted that the reported taping and dissemination of a telephone conference call, in which Mr. Gingrich and other House leaders discussed strategies for handling the case, amounted to a felonious act by an unidentified House Democrat. They contended that the taping should be investigated by the Justice Department.

"Whoever did this broke the law," Representative Bill Paxon said Sunday on CNN. "If it is a member, they should either have the honor to resign or they should be expelled from the House."

The charges against Mr. Gingrich, based on his admitted use of tax-exempt funds for partisan purposes, have polarized Congress.

The furor over the charges, and how they might restrict Mr. Gingrich's effectiveness, had already nearly cost him the speakership, which he won Tuesday in a close vote of the full House. Democrats and a handful of Republicans said that the Georgia representative should have stepped aside, at least until the charges were resolved.

Mr. Gephardt repeated that call Sunday on NBC-TV. "Why the rush?" he asked, referring to the tight schedule for hearings and a vote on Mr. Gingrich. "I think it's only to cover it up, to make sure people don't have the facts."

As things stand, the report from the ethics committee's special counsel, James Cole, will be presented to the full House on Thursday. After a weekend of hearings, the House will vote on Mr. Gingrich's punishment, taking into consideration the committee's recommendation.

Republican leaders have said they expect the mildest rebuke will be issued: a reprimand. Considered far less likely is censure, which might cost him the speakership, or a call for a Justice Department investigation.

"I think that the most we're talking about is a reprimand," Representative Bob Livingston, Republican of Louisiana, said Sunday. "In fact, I'm not even sure that we're talking about that."

Asked why the Republicans appeared to be rushing the ethics case to a conclusion, Mr. Livingston, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said the attempts to delay the vote were coming from Democrats "eager to drag this whole thing out."

He said they wanted to distract Americans from a series of scandals hanging over the White House.

The ethics committee originally scheduled a week of public hearings. Later, Democrats on the panel denounced the Republicans for scheduling the hearings to begin days before Mr. Cole's report was supposed to be available. They said that the House vote should be delayed to early February. The Republicans then said that they would delay the hearings to Thursday, to give Mr. Cole more time.

But Democrats pointed out that the Republican shift came after a 40-minute meeting between the committee and the House majority leader, Richard Armey of Texas, in what some said appeared to be improper interference with the panel's role.

But reports about the recording of the Gingrich conference call gave Republicans a weapon to strike back, which they did with their demands for an investigation.

Hope for Talks in Peru Crisis

Archbishop and Red Cross Envoy Visit Hostages

The Associated Press

LIMA — Two key players in efforts to end the hostage crisis at the Japanese ambassador's residence here visited the 74 captives Sunday amid hopes for new face-to-face talks between the rebels and the government.

Juan Luis Cipriani, the Roman Catholic archbishop of Ayacucho in southern Peru, spent more than two hours inside the diplomatic compound before leaving without speaking with reporters.

The Red Cross representative, Michel Minnig, also visited the hostages. "The only thing I can tell you is the hostages are fine," Mr. Minnig said afterward.

Previous visits by the pair produced hostage releases by the Tupac Amaru leftists, who seized more than 500 people attending a reception at the compound Dec. 17.

No hostages have been released since Jan. 1. Negotiations stalled after the rebels spoke to reporters on Dec. 31, violating an agreement with the government.

The government negotiator, Domingo Palermo, and Nestor Cerpa, leader of the rebels, agreed in a radio conversation Friday to a face-to-face meeting inside the compound over the weekend. But by Sunday afternoon, Mr. Palermo had not been seen near the residence.

Archbishop Cipriani, who has celebrated Mass for the hostages, also spent more than two hours in the residence on Saturday, accompanied by another Red Cross worker. He left without speaking to reporters but waved and flashed a smile, fueling speculation that progress was being made in arranging a release or new talks.

News of renewed contact between the two sides was welcomed in Tokyo, where concern remained high over the Japanese diplomats and officials still held.

"I expect direct negotiations this time to be held smoothly and vigorously and bring about a tangible resolution," Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda told the NHK television network.

President Alberto Fujimori has rejected the guerrillas' demand that he release about 300 rebels from Peruvian jails. But in an interview Friday, Mr. Fujimori said he was confident he could get the hostages freed without bloodshed.

His government has been in contact with other countries to arrange the possible safe passage of the guerrillas from Peru should they release all of their captives. Officials refuse to identify which countries have been consulted.

The captives include Japan's ambassador, Morihisa Aoki, Peru's foreign minister, congressmen, judges and top security officials, Japanese executives and Mr. Fujimori's younger brother, Pedro.

Mr. Fujimori spent Sunday preparing for a visit by President Abdala Bucaram of Ecuador on Monday, the first ever of an Ecuadoran head of state to Peru. The two countries have clashed several times over their disputed border, most recently in 1995.

Local media have cited Ecuador as a possible destination for the guerrillas holed up inside the ambassador's residence.

Several thousand people marched near the compound Sunday to demand the hostages' freedom, the largest demonstration since the crisis began. Carrying banners, signs and a giant red-and-white Peruvian flag, the marchers chanted and sang to the sounds of xylophones, a tuba and drums.

"It's gone on too long now. We just want peace. We want the hostages set free," said Honoria Trujillo, a demonstrator.

Police late Saturday released a Japanese reporter and a Peruvian translator who had been detained since sneaking inside the compound Tuesday to interview the rebels. Tsuyoshi Hitomi, a New York-based TV Asahi reporter, left Lima late Saturday. His Peruvian interpreter, Victor Borja, also was released.

A TV Asahi representative said the videotape the two recorded inside the compound was turned over to Japanese Embassy officials in Lima.



Joe Traver/Reuters

BIG SNOWSTORM — Two women shoveling the walkway of their home in Buffalo, New York, where nearly two feet (half a meter) of snow fell Saturday.

AMERICAN TOPICS

Dusty Arizona Border Town Struggles to Clean Up Image

There is a lot of anger in the dusty air of Douglas, Arizona, a tough and scrappy town on the Mexican border, but the anger has galvanized attempts to build a stronger community.

Douglas, with a population of 15,000, is the only major town on the 1,900-mile (3,000-kilometer) U.S.-Mexico border without a wall protecting the international line, notes the Los Angeles Times. So black-market activities are nothing new. The Arizona Rangers tried to rid the place of horse thieves and gunrunners at the turn of the century.

But a recent comment by an assistant U.S. attorney, Daniel Knauss, who called the dusty outpost "seriously corrupt," has left border agents on the verge of revolt and town officials straining to undo the damage to their efforts to lure tourists and industry.

The assertion was not surprising to many locals. In 1990, a 270-foot (83-meter) cocaine traffickers' tunnel was unearthed, running beneath the border to the Mexican town of Agua Prieta. Speculation was rife that the smugglers could have undertaken so ambitious a project only with official collaboration on the American side.

But the town has tried to fight back. A warehouse at the U.S. terminus of the drug tunnel has been turned into a shelter for battered women; a villa at the Mexican end is now a job training center. And this year, the town used $1.5 million in seized drug money to refurbish an old rail depot for use by the local police department.

Short Takes

In the new movie "Evita," the pop star Madonna — in the role of Eva Peron, wife of the Argentine dictator Juan Peron — spends considerable time torridly tangoing across the screen. That, reports The Boston Globe, has helped spark a revival of the lascivious dance, born in the brothels of Buenos Aires and once outlawed by the Vatican. Tango is suddenly the most popular ballroom dance class in many dance schools; the crooners Julio Iglesias and Luis Miguel have released tango records; and the Macy's and Bloomingdale's department stores are unveiling a line of Evitawear. Tango on.

Northern California has had so much rain lately that even the fish can't handle it. "There's probably too much water," said one fisheries official. For decades, sea-running salmon like the chinook and coho, along with the steelhead trout, have had little freshwater to spawn in and have dwindled close to extinction. Then, in the past three years, abundant rains had started a revival. But the recent flooding has been so extreme as to imperil eggs and newly hatched salmon in the rough currents of the San Francisco Bay ecosystem and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. For endangered species like the chinook, a single bad spawning season can have repercussions for generations to come.

Too much water in California, too many weeds in Florida. Last month, 21,000 10-inch grass carp were dumped into the canals of South Florida. Voracious eaters of aquatic vegetation, their mission was to clean canal waters of weeds fouling floodgates and impeding flows. Introducing imported species in Florida has backfired more than once, of course. Accidental introductions have led to thriving populations of such pests as the African giant snail, the cane toad, the monk parakeet and the fire ant. State biologists were quite aware of that, and the carp being used were bred to be sterile — to eat weeds and then die. There are concerns, however, that the fish might end up on the wrong end of the food chain before they complete their job. Fishermen have shown their interest. And a Chinese-language newspaper in South Florida printed a recipe for steamed carp in a wine, soy and ginger sauce.

International Herald Tribune

Portrait of a Loving Husband

At Civil Trial, Simpson Tells of a Happy Marriage

By B. Drummond Ayres Jr.
New York Times Service

SANTA MONICA, California — With the end of his civil wrongful-death trial drawing near, O.J. Simpson has taken the stand and, gently nudged along by his lawyers, painted a picture of himself as a loving husband and all-round good guy who could not have fatally slashed his former wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman on June 12, 1994.

Only once, he insisted, had he physically harmed Mrs. Simpson — and then not with his fists but in wrestling her out of his locked bedroom after she had somehow entered, angry, at the end of a New Year's Eve bacchanal.

What was more, he went on, the next morning, Jan. 1, 1989, he was so "disappointed" in himself for having manhandled her that he had his lawyer draw up a document that would punish him "to the tune of millions of dollars" should there ever be another such incident.

There never was, he said, but he conceded that once they had an argument in which he kicked in a door, and that on another occasion they had exchanged words and he had, somewhat playfully, cracked the window on her Mercedes convertible with a baseball bat he was toying with.

"We were very much in love," Mr. Simpson said at one point in describing his marriage under friendly questioning by his lead lawyer, Robert Baker, who was seeking through Friday's testimony to end the defense's case with the best possible image of his client fixed in the jury's mind.

Mr. Simpson, who earlier in the trial spent almost three days on the stand going over much the same testimonial territory, probably will testify for the better part of two days this time around, with his next appearance Monday.

In Friday's questioning, Mr. Simpson recalled the early days of his marriage, when he said he and his wife had happily traveled the world. They lived the good life, he said, in various houses they owned — entertaining friends and relatives almost constantly, playing tennis together, golfing and tooling about in big, fast cars.

But, Mr. Simpson went on, the once perfect marriage began to fail. There were arguments, he said, including the one that ended with Mrs. Simpson black and blue from wrestling with him.

Divorce followed. After that, he said, a bad situation became worse when his former wife began to associate with drug users and prostitutes. He said that deeply worried him and, concerned for her and their two children, he said he once confronted her and asked, angrily, "What the hell are you doing with hookers?"

Still, he insisted steadfastly that he had never hit or hurt his wife in any way, other than in the incident in 1989.

Mexico Fails to Solve Mystery of a Skeleton

By Sam Dillon
New York Times Service

MEXICO CITY — Three months after proclaiming that a decomposed body found on a farm belonging to a former president's brother would prove "conclusive" in solving a political assassination, the Mexican authorities have acknowledged that they could not identify the remains.

The announcement Friday capped a week of new setbacks for the country's criminal justice system and for President Ernesto Zedillo's attempts to remake it.

When the skeleton was dug up Oct. 9 on a farm near Mexico City, Attorney General Antonio Lozano hinted that body was the remains of Manuel Munoz Rocha, a congressman who has been missing since 1994, and predicted that they would prove to be "conclusive" evidence in showing that Raul Salinas de Gortari had ordered the assassination of a prominent politician, Jose Francisco Ruiz Massieu.

The government has accused Mr. Salinas of asking Mr. Munoz Rocha to carry out the assassination and then ordering the slaying of Mr. Munoz Rocha as well.

The farm was the property of Mr. Salinas, brother of Carlos Salinas de Gortari, the former president.

After presidential aides learned that results of forensic tests cast doubts on Mr. Lozano's conclusions, Mr. Zedillo dismissed him Dec. 2, replacing him with a prominent human rights lawyer.

But the government never clarified whether or not the skeleton was that of Mr. Munoz Rocha until a news conference Friday, where Deputy Attorney General Jose Luis Ramos Rivera said they were not. After admitting that prosecutors had no leads as to the body's identity, Mr. Ramos fled the news conference.

Away From Politics

• **A 48-hour "amnesty"** that allowed Miami residents to return money that disappeared after a security truck crash ended with the police holding only about $20 in returned funds — out of the $500,000 in bundled currency and coin that is estimated to have rained onto an impoverished neighborhood from a highway overpass. *(Reuters)*

• **Coloradans are the thinnest,** on average, of those in any of the contiguous states. A study by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state health departments has found that only 19.9 percent of Coloradans are overweight, compared with the median of 26.7 percent for the nation. Hawaii was the only other state where residents are as thin, with 19.7 being overweight. *(NYT)*

• **The parents of a 9-year-old San Diego girl** have filed a $25.5 million lawsuit claiming that the family will need therapy after a Cabbage Patch doll gnawed the girl's hair to her scalp. *(AP)*

• **The space shuttle Atlantis has blasted off** for the Russian space station Mir, where it will pick up the astronaut John Blaha and leave another American for a four-and-a-half-month stay. Atlantis is due to dock with Mir late Tuesday. *(AP)*

• **Investigators are analyzing the flight data and cockpit voice recorders** from a Comair commuter flight from Cincinnati that crashed near Detroit last week, killing all 29 people aboard. The so-called black box was recovered from an impact crater 4 feet (1.2 meters) deep. *(AP)*

• **A fire at a University of Tennessee-Martin dormitory** left one student dead and five others injured. *(AP)*

POLITICAL NOTES

Weekend Retreat for Cabinet

WASHINGTON — Four years ago when President Bill Clinton wanted to brainstorm with his new cabinet, he called the officials to Camp David, the presidential retreat where professional "facilitators" led them through an evening group exercise in sharing confidences about major life experiences.

But on Saturday, when Mr. Clinton held his retreat for the incoming and departing cabinets, New Age human relations exercises were out and pragmatism was in. The group gathered at the more prosaic Blair House across from the White House, with the only one facilitating being Mr. Clinton.

"The president's pretty good at that himself," said the White House press secretary, Michael McCurry.

Mr. Clinton's aides described the daylong meeting as a set of discussion sessions intended to provoke thought about the challenges facing the administration, particularly in the crucial next few months, in which the president has an opportunity to set the tone for his second term.

The cabinet retreat Saturday was originally supposed to take place at Camp David and span the weekend, but the session was shortened so the president and staff members could watch the National Football League playoffs Sunday. *(NYT)*

Price of Presidential Souvenirs

WASHINGTON — Organizers of the presidential inauguration, scrambling to try to pay for the glitzy events, are trying to boost their merchandising profits through what souvenir vendors call extraordinary pressure to corral the kitsch market.

Attorneys for the Presidential Inaugural Committee have sent letters to merchants saying they may be fined for "invasion of privacy" for selling T-shirts, pennants or coffee mugs bearing the names of President Bill Clinton or Vice President Al Gore — standard fare for souvenir designs. The committee's appointed salespeople have also told the merchants that U.S. marshals may raid their stores and seize inaugural items that were not provided by the official suppliers, according to numerous vendors. *(WP)*

Clinton Assails Gang Crime

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton on Saturday pledged an all-out attack on the "scourge of juvenile crime and gangs" in his second term in office and said he would propose new legislation to prevent members of gangs from intimidating witnesses to crimes.

Mr. Clinton's announcement in his weekly radio address stressed his administration's anti-crime record, including its support for laws putting more police on the streets and banning the sale of assault weapons.

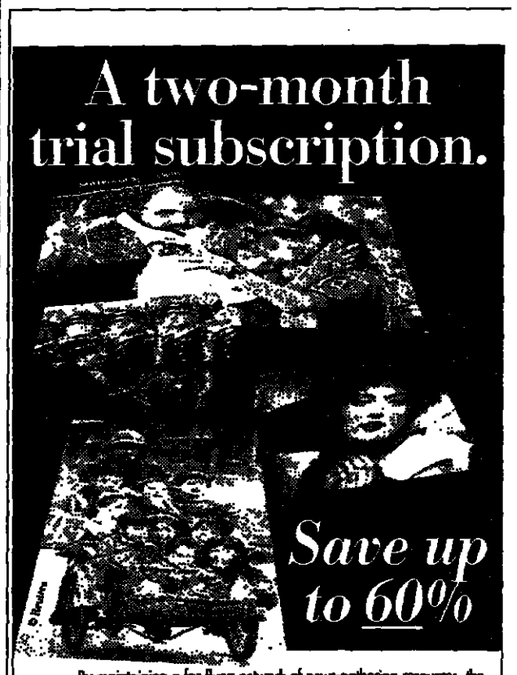
In the next four years, Mr. Clinton said, he was "determined to break the backs of criminal gangs that have ruined too many lives and stolen too many futures."

He added: "Too many people in too many communities will not testify about gang crimes, because they are afraid of violent reprisal. We must not allow the voice of justice to be frightened into silence by the threats of gangs." *(WP)*

Quote/Unquote

Bud Burke, a Kansas state senator, on attempts to transfer power from the federal government to the states: "Philosophically, everyone thinks this is the greatest thing since sliced bread. But once we get into the implementation stage, that's when things will start to get sticky." *(NYT)*

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CAREERS FOCUS

Working for Family Firms: Lower Pay, but More Respect (Maybe)

By Stuart Silverstein and Denise Gellene
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Family businesses have a special place in the American imagination, be they mom-and-pop grocery shops, friendly roadside diners, or a professional sports team like the Los Angeles Dodgers.

When these companies sell out to wheeler-dealer investment syndicates or faceless corporations, employees, customers and the community are frequently assailed by a sense of loss.

But what really happens when a family business is gobbled up by a large corporation? It's often not as bad as Dodgers fans and employees might fear in the wake of the announcement last week that the family-owned team is up for sale.

At their best, family businesses, which make up the vast majority of businesses in America, possess "a very special culture," with "values that typically include great respect for the individual, trust and empathy," said Ann Ehringer, director of the Family & Closely Held Businesses Program at the University of Southern California.

The fear when an admired family-run organization is on the selling block "is that maybe those values won't be so important any more," she said.

Yet not all family enterprises are as praiseworthy as Malden Mills — whose owner, the grandson of the founder, kept paying employees and issued Christmas bonuses after the company's plant burned down in late 1995.

There also are shoddily run businesses where the incompetent brother-in-law of the owner gets an inflated salary to shuffle papers or where blacks and Hispanics need not apply. In those cases a corporate takeover can be a vast improvement.

Buyouts of family firms also may mean higher salaries, better benefits and more opportunity for workers who once had been outside the favored family circle.

While statistics on how well family businesses pay are hard to come by, there are reliable figures showing that small firms — which tend to be family-owned — generally provide lower wages and fewer benefits than big companies. "The larger the company, the richer the benefits package," said Ken McDonnell, an analyst with the Employee Benefit Research Institute. "It's solely a matter of economy of scale. General Motors can afford to give a richer package of benefits than a mom-and-pop store."

Small family enterprises, when they are not professionally run, also may have casual hiring and employment policies that open the door to discrimination and other abuses.

Sometimes "they're too cheap to hire the talent" to run the personnel office properly, said Joseph Posner, a lawyer who represents workers in disputes with employers.

"They'll take someone who's been a personnel clerk," he said, "and then say, 'You're the personnel director.'"

For Paula Kurtz, human resources director of an optical lens manufacturing company in Portland, Oregon, that passed from family hands to a succession of corporate owners, the changes from the old ways have brought pluses and minuses.

Before the business was sold by the founding family in 1984, employees were assured of holding onto their jobs and their full 40-hour weeks whether business was busy or slow. Under corporate ownership, she said, management has avoided big layoffs but has instead cut hours when there was not enough orders to keep the staff busy.

Still, Ms. Kurtz said, workers readily accepted that change. "They knew people were standing around with nothing to do," she said. "They realized it was the logical thing to do."

With corporate ownership, the business has become more professionally managed — a development that also has its good and bad aspects. Ms. Kurtz, 45, recounted how in the early 1970s, during a hiatus she took from the company, one of the family owners called her to beg her to come back.

Today, Ms. Kurtz said, the company would formally post the job opening before making such an offer, to make sure everyone interested got a fair shot at the position.

Perhaps the most unsettling difference, Ms. Kurtz said, is the insecurity that has crept into the organization. Now people ask whether there will be a holiday party, flu shots and raises — benefits once taken for granted. The insecurity, she said, "permeates everything," although she acknowledged that could have happened even if the founders had not sold.

In any case, it is sometimes hard to distinguish family businesses from big corporations. In between the corner meat market and General Motors Corp. are many big companies that essentially are hybrids: their shares may be traded on the New York Stock Exchange, but they remain under control of a single family.

Industry analysts, in fact, estimate that roughly half of the publicly traded companies in the United States — including Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and Nordstrom Inc. — remain substantially under family control. In fact, more than 90 percent of all American companies are believed to be owned by families, individual proprietors or small closely tied groups, making it difficult to draw sweeping generalizations.

The Dodgers baseball franchise is a case in point. With the team's high profile and cachet, it is hardly a typical family business. Otherwise, though, it has some of the classic traits. Among other things, its management has been passed from Walter O'Malley to his son, Peter, the current team president. The O'Malleys have owned the team since 1950.

One possible problem for the Dodgers under new owners, some specialists say, is that fan loyalty could be undermined.

"In changing ownership, that is a big piece of heritage going by the wayside," said David O'Hara, creative director at the advertising firm Hal Riney & Partners. "It will be difficult for the Dodgers to convince people that they are still the Dodgers."

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FOR MORE RECRUITMENT See Page 16

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Deputy Director

International management consulting organization is actively seeking senior level executive candidates for the Deputy Director position for global social marketing program. Candidates must have a minimum of fifteen years experience in private sector marketing, financial management and/or international development. Familiarity with USAID practices and procedures desired. Work in health-related areas with pharmaceutical/medical background, insurance and managed care, family planning, and financial program management. Responsibilities include: project management (financial, administration and programmatic); liaison with funding agency and local governments; Program design (marketing of contraceptives and health care services). In addition, the Deputy Director will be responsible for supervising development of new program opportunities. The position is based in the DC headquarters with international travel required. Spanish or French a plus. Computer literacy, excellent oral and written communication, organizational, and interpersonal skills required. Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

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AIDS Social Marketing Expert

International Management consulting organization seeks senior marketing specialists to manage global HIV/AIDS social marketing programs. Candidates must have ten years experience in marketing of pharmaceutical and/or health related products; five years experience in marketing of condoms for HIV/AIDS prevention; experience in USAID or other donor related funded international program; senior management experience in above a necessity; Africa program experience a plus; demonstrated expertise and experience in the application of behavior change models, integrated marketing communications, and market research. Demonstrated expertise and experience in working with NGOs and PVOs in condom distribution and/or HIV/AIDS prevention promotion. Fluency in English a must, French and/or Spanish a plus. Excellent oral and written communication, computer literacy; organizational, and interpersonal skills. Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Striking Workers Reject Seoul's Appeal for Talks

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SEOUL — The South Korean government appealed Sunday for talks with labor leaders on ending almost three weeks of unrest, but striking workers called the request a ploy and said they would push on with plans for a bigger strike unless the government repealed a contested labor law.

At least 3,000 workers and students fought Sunday with riot police as they tried to march out of Myongdong Cathedral in central Seoul, where the labor leader Kwon Young Kil and six other union leaders have sought sanctuary from prosecutors seeking their arrest.

Police fired volleys of tear gas at the protesters to force them back.

Mr. Kwon, speaking outside a makeshift tent on the grounds of the cathedral, said worker resolve was undiminished and public support for the protesters was increasing.

"We will not accept the law," Mr. Kwon said, referring to the contested labor legislation. He added, "The public and the opposition parties will also not accept the law." Mr. Kwon is president of the outlawed Korean Confederation of Trade Unions.

"If the law comes into effect," he said in an interview, "it will destroy 12 million workers' lives and the public life."

On Saturday, the chief of the ruling New Korea Party, Lee Hong Koo, in an apparent attempt to avoid more confrontation, challenged union leaders to a televised debate over the labor law. Mr. Kwon rejected the offer, calling it a "propaganda ploy."

The main union body, the Federation of Korean Trade Unions, has also brushed aside the offer to discuss the law.

Mr. Kwon said his 500,000-member union would strike on Wednesday if the law was not scrapped. That would coincide with a call by the main union, which has 1.2 million members, to strike for two days starting Tuesday in what would be the biggest strike in South Korean history.

On Saturday, about 20,000 workers calling for the resignation of President Kim Young Sam clashed with riot police in the most violent street protests since the labor law was adopted at a secret session of the National Assembly on Dec. 26.

Mr. Kwon said private research institutes had figures that showed public support for the strikes had risen from 55 percent to 64 percent since Mr. Kim took a tough stance against the strikes at a New Year's press conference.

South Korean unions denounce the new legislation as an "evil law," while international labor organizations have said it is even harsher than the law it replaced. Seoul officials, on the other hand, say the law is needed to rescue the economy.

The government indicated Sunday that it may be willing to revise the disputed law. The law makes it easier for companies to lay off workers, while limiting employees' union rights for three to five years.

Government officials were unnerved as religious groups, opposition parties and professors — as well as international labor groups — threw their weight behind South Korean workers and cautioned against a government crackdown.

Opposition parties demanded an immediate meeting with President Kim, saying the protest was a "crisis that is getting out of hand."

Officials at the ruling New Korea Party said they would consider revising the law if opposition parties submit a draft revision, but insisted that the law must first be enforced.

Meanwhile, South Korea's largest automaker, Hyundai Motors Co., shut its plant Friday, saying it had suffered $465 million in lost production and could not afford to stay open. *(AP, Reuters)*



Agence France Presse

A SIMPLE REQUEST — Tibetan children praying at a protest in New Delhi for the release of Ngawang Choephel, a 30-year-old music teacher, and other Tibetans imprisoned in China. India is home to some 100,000 Tibetan exiles.

BRIEFLY ASIA

Fund Pays 7 'Comfort Women'

TOKYO — Seven South Korean women who were used as sex slaves by the Japanese Army during World War II have each been paid 5 million yen ($43,000), the Japanese fund set up to compensate the "comfort women" said Sunday.

"Funds were paid from the Asian Women's Fund to seven women Saturday," a spokesman for the fund said.

But the action provoked a bitter reaction from the South Korean government, which along with other Asian nations, has sharply criticized Tokyo's handling of the issue. Most of the women forced into sexual service for the Japanese military have refused to accept any of the money, which comes from a private fund and not directly from the Japanese government.

"The South Korean government regrets the Japanese action to deliver the money to the comfort women without acknowledging the seriousness of the issue," Seoul said. *(Reuters)*

India Launches Crash Inquiry

NEW DELHI — Indian authorities launched on Sunday their official investigation into the world deadliest midair collision, two months after the crash near the capital left 349 dead, the Press Trust of India reported.

The investigation was delayed by legal wrangles between Indian officials and lawyers representing operators of the two aircraft: a Saudia jumbo jet and a Kazakh airliner.

The Saudi Arabian airline wants to send the flight data and voice recorders from its plane to the West for decoding, while Kazakh authorities plan to return their data recorder to Russia.

"The black box of the Kazakh Illyshin-76 has been taken out from the debris with the help of special equipment flown in from Russia," an aviation official told the Indian news agency after the recovery Saturday. *(AFP)*

Slick Kept From Japan A-Plants

MAIZURU, Japan — Workers from Japan's maritime agency successfully kept heavy oil leaking out of a ruptured tanker from fouling the operations of several nuclear reactors Sunday.

Oil from the Russian tanker Nakhodka drifted close to the 15 nuclear reactors lying along Wakasa Bay, but oil fences and cleanup operations kept it from intake pipes providing reactor cooling water, a spokesman said.

Efforts to clean up oil that spilled after the Jan. 2 split of the ship are spread across a 450-kilometer (285-mile) stretch of the coast. But officials have concentrated on keeping the oil away from the power plants. *(Reuters)*

For the Record

Singapore hospital officials declined to comment Sunday on the condition of Lee Kuan Yew, the former prime minister who entered hospital Saturday for scheduled tests on his bladder. *(Reuters)*

Rebels of the Bodo tribe are suspected of detonating a land mine on a Indian road as a police bus was passing Saturday, killing two federal police officers and wounding 13 people, including five civilians, police said. The attack was the latest in northeastern Assam state, where authorities say secessionist movements and tribal warfare led to the deaths of nearly 1,000 people last year. *(AP)*

China Sends a Message to Taiwan by Vetoing UN Peacekeeping Force

By Patrick E. Tyler
New York Times Service

BEIJING — The Chinese government has said that its decision to veto a United Nations resolution that would have sent peacekeepers to Guatemala was justified by Guatemala's long-standing diplomatic recognition of Taiwan, an affront to China's sovereignty over the island it regards as a renegade province.

"Guatemala cannot expect on the one hand to do something that harms the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China while on the other hand requesting China to cooperate in peacekeeping," said Shen Guofang, the Chinese government spokesman. His remarks were carried Saturday by the Xinhua press agency.

"We had no choice," Mr. Shen said of the veto cast Friday night in the Security Council, noting that China had no objection to the principle of sending UN monitors to help carry out the peace accord that is ending 36 years of civil war in Guatemala.

"Clearly, the government of Guatemala must be responsible," he said, for China's decision to use its authority as one of the five permanent members of the Security Council to scuttle a resolution supported by a majority of the 15-member council.

Diplomats in New York indicated that China had signaled that it might be willing to reconsider its veto if Guatemala downgraded its relations with Taiwan and ceased its support for Taiwan's re-entry into the United Nations.

Guatemala and more than two dozen other countries, mostly in Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa, extend formal diplomatic recognition to Taiwan as the Republic of China, the political descendant of Chiang Kai-shek's government that fled the mainland in 1949 after defeat by Mao Zedong's Communists.

China's veto on Friday marked the first time in 24 years that Beijing had used its "no" vote in a matter outside the selection of the secretary-general. It thus reflected a hardening of political attitudes in the Communist Party leadership in Beijing to confront Taiwan in a year when Hong Kong will return to Chinese rule after 150 years as a British colony.

The return of Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan to Chinese sovereignty has been a longstanding objective of China's rulers.

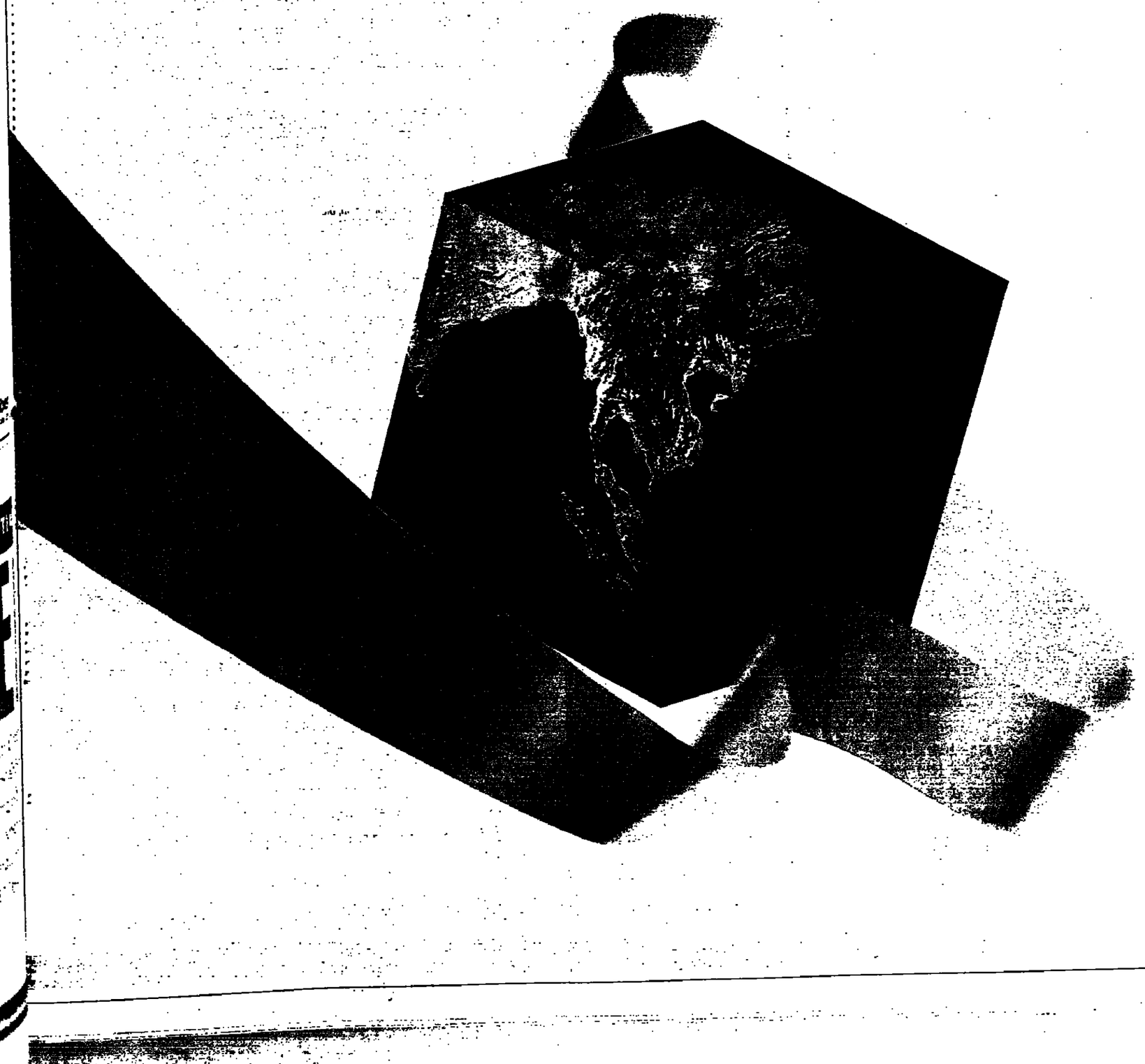
Friday's vote further internationalizes the dispute between Beijing and Taiwan.

Beijing considers any recognition afforded Taiwan as a boost to pro-independence forces there that have wholeheartedly supported President Lee Teng-hui's drive to raise Taiwan's international standing as a sovereign political entity.

In Taiwan on Saturday, Foreign Minister John Chang rebuked Beijing's veto. "It is extremely insensible and unreasonable for Communist China to mingle relations across" the Taiwan Strait with a regional peacekeeping mission of the United Nations, he said.

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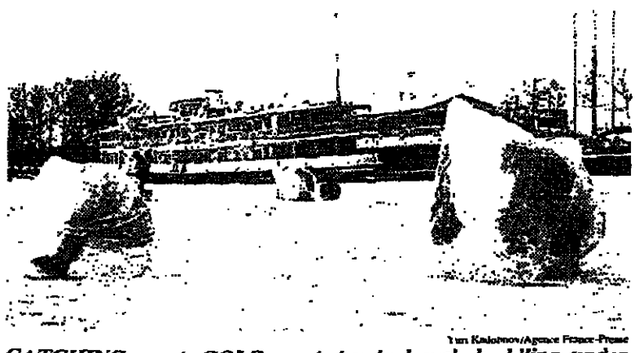


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Yuri Kadobnov/Agence France-Presse

CATCHING ... A COLD — A hardy bunch huddling under plastic sheets as they fished through the ice of the Moscow River.

8 Die in Northern Italian Train Wreck

PIACENZA, Italy — At least eight people were killed and dozens were injured Sunday when a high-speed train traveling from Milan to Rome went off the rails near this town in northern Italy, rescue officials said.

The two drivers of the Pendolino tilting train were among the dead. A total of 31 people were injured in the accident near Piacenza. A Railway spokesman said it was not known what caused the crash. *(AFP)*

Havel Had 2 Tumors, Paper Reports

PRAGUE — Doctors found two tumors in President Vaclav Havel's lungs when he underwent surgery for lung cancer last month, not a single tumor as originally reported, the Mlada Fronta Dnes newspaper has reported.

A presidential official confirmed the report. "The second tumor was benign and didn't have any effect on the president's health," the newspaper quoted an unidentified doctor attending Mr. Havel as saying. "The diagnosis was more interesting than important." *(AP)*

Chirac Pleads for 'Economic Realism'

SARRAN, France — President Jacques Chirac has warned France that a wave of labor unrest aimed at reducing the retirement age to 55 from 60 flew in the face of international economic realities.

"Our compatriots wish to work less and retire earlier, and I understand this," Mr. Chirac said last weekend. "But I hope that our country will not forget the economic and demographic realities of the world we live in." *(Reuters)*

The EU This Week:

International Herald Tribune

Significant events in the European Union this week:

- Negotiators at the intergovernmental conference on EU reform meet in Amsterdam on Monday and Tuesday to seek ways to accelerate the talks in an effort to reach agreement on revisions to EU treaties by June. A key issue will be how to define a flexibility clause that would allow some Union members to deepen integration in certain areas without restraint from reluctant countries.
- The Japanese trade minister, Shinji Sato, meets Monday with Trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan and other commissioners in Brussels to discuss the follow-up to the World Trade Organization meeting in December.
- The European Parliament elects a new president at its plenary session Tuesday in Strasbourg. Foreign Minister Hans van Mierlo discusses Dutch priorities for its EU presidency in the Parliament on Wednesday.
- Parliament's special committee of inquiry into the beef crisis meets in Strasbourg beginning Monday to review a report criticizing Britain and attacking the European Commission for failing to protect consumers.

Bleak Debate in Berlin on Holocaust Memorial

By Alan Cowell
New York Times Service

BERLIN — Simply put, the question was this: How does the country that carried out the Holocaust commemorate it? The answer was not so easy.

In a Communist-era building here, 70 eminent German historians, artists, public figures, architects and politicians gathered last week to renew a debate over a projected Holocaust memorial that has raised troubling questions for years.

But as speaker followed speaker, it became clear that for all the discussions, for all the competitions to choose a design for the monument, those most closely involved are as far from consensus as ever.

Indeed, the divisions led to a broader conclusion: Half a century after World War II, and the killing of 6 million Jews by the Nazis, many Germans still cannot confront the defining horror of their modern history without anguished debate over how they should relate to it.

At issue is a contentious project to place a Holocaust memorial near the Brandenburg Gate in a part of Berlin that evokes Germany's past as much as its future.

Years of lobbying by an advocacy group led to a competition in 1995 that drew more than 500 entrants competing for a chance to design what is officially the Monument to the Murdered Jews of Europe.

The winner was a proposal for a huge gravestone-shaped slab bearing the names of millions of Jews who were killed. But Chancellor Helmut Kohl rejected the idea as overly gigantic. Now, in three sessions like Friday's between now and April, public discussions are to be held to shape a final decision to be made by the government in Bonn, by Berlin city authorities, and by the advocacy group that first promoted the idea.

"The monument will be built," said Peter Radunski, a Berlin official responsible for cultural affairs, maintaining that neither the cost ($10 million), nor the location, nor the date for a foundation stone to be laid in 1999 (Jan. 27, the date of the liberation of Auschwitz in 1945) would be changed.

Immediately, though, several speakers challenged Mr. Radunski, insisting that the debate be opened anew on the design and location of the monument.

"This monument needs broad public agreement, and it doesn't have that yet," said Peter Conradi, a legislator from the opposition Social Democratic Party in Bonn.

That in turn inspired a protest from Ignatz Bubis, the head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, who argued that 10 years of debate had given everyone a chance to express a view and that further debate would "turn the clock back to zero."

Despite the rawness of the emotion, Juergen Kocka, a historian, maintained that 52 years after World War II, Germans had largely come to terms with their past. "The readiness to accept is strong; the urge to silence is weak," he said.

Nonetheless, the debate revived many old issues: Should the memorial commemorate only Jews, or all victims of Nazi persecution? Should it be monumental, or a more modest place of reflection? Was its function to recall the past or merely provide what one participant called "an alibi of atonement" as Germany enters a new century seeking freedom from its past?

"It must be smaller, more still, more contemplative than the previous designs," Mr. Kocka said.

Another historian, Michael Stuermer, said: "Monumental regret cannot be the answer to a monumental crime."

Many insisted that the monument should not stand as an icon of collective guilt. "Guilt is always individual, but responsibility is universal," Mr. Stuermer said.

One of the many contentious issues is how future generations should be reminded of the Holocaust.

"We are living through a change of generation after which there'll be no more living contact with the Nazi period," one speaker said. "Already, three-quarters of the people in this country were born after the Second World War."

But some questioned whether a central monument in Berlin would not detract from other Holocaust memorial sites.

"We have to ask ourselves what purpose can be served by a memorial 50 years later," said Kathrin Hoffmann-Curtius, a member of the group that met on Friday. "Do we need a monument to remember, or does the new republic need a monument as a political insurance policy?"

Swiss See Swift Action on Fund for Victims

Reuters

ZURICH — Interior Minister Ruth Dreifuss said Sunday that the Swiss government would waste no time in deciding on a memorial fund for victims of the Holocaust.

In an interview in a Swiss paper, SonntagsZeitung, Ms. Dreifuss said the Federal Council was aware of the need to move swiftly and was ready to take action.

"It is quite clear to the council that something has to be done fast," Ms. Dreifuss said.

She also repeated that the council was not planning to denounce recent remarks by the economics minister, Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, who had described as blackmail calls for a quick Swiss restitution to Holocaust victims.

"Normally the council as a collective group does not correct statements made by individual members," Ms. Dreifuss said.

Most Swiss seem to agree the government should not denounce Mr. Delamuraz, nor should he resign, according to recent polls.

A survey by the Lucerne-based LINK institute, published by the Blick newspaper Saturday, showed that less than one-third of the Swiss surveyed thought the government should distance itself from Mr. Delamuraz.

A survey by another Sunday paper, SonntagsBlick, showed that 80 percent of respondents did not think Mr. Delamuraz should resign.

Ms. Dreifuss said she regretted that Mr. Delamuraz's remarks had led to a deterioration in the trust that had been built up between Switzerland and groups abroad.

Mr. Delamuraz's remarks, made as he was completing his one-year term in the rotating Swiss presidency, outraged Israeli politicians and Jewish groups, who threatened to call for a boycott of Swiss banks.

Two days after his remarks, Mr. Delamuraz said he was sorry if he had offended any survivors of the Holocaust and he regretted if his comments had lead to any misunderstandings.

Ms. Dreifuss noted that Switzerland was not only the country having to face its actions toward Jews during and before World War II. Sweden, Norway, Hungary and France faced similar problems, but some of these countries had already set up funds.

"We are also ready to take action," Ms. Dreifuss said.

The government has said that it might compensate Jewish victims of the Nazis before a full inquiry was completed.

According to the surveys, the Swiss people also agree that a fund should be set up, but most think that it should be done after the inquiry is completed.

Groups led by the World Jewish Congress say Switzerland's banks and government profited cynically from the Holocaust by holding on to accounts left ownerless by Jewish victims and by buying stolen gold from Nazi Germany.

Yeltsin, Still in Hospital, Reported by Doctors to Be Working

Reuters

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin, who is hospitalized with pneumonia, has become significantly more active and is working on documents, his doctors said Sunday.

A medical bulletin made public through the Kremlin said Mr. Yeltsin was in stable condition with normal blood pressure, pulse and temperature.

"To a significant degree, his activity has increased," the bulletin said.

The chief Kremlin physician, Dr. Sergei Mironov, said Friday that Mr. Yeltsin, 65, had pneumonia "of medium gravity" in both lungs. Doctors are using antibiotics to treat the condition.

Mr. Yeltsin's latest bout of ill health, just two months after he underwent multiple heart bypass surgery, has opened up a debate on whether Russia should alter its constitution to shift power from the president to the legislature.

At least one Moscow daily newspaper suggested that, because of his prolonged illnesses, it might be time for Mr. Yeltsin to step down.

"Regretfully, it is obvious that the president has no strength left to attend to affairs of state properly," the liberal Komsomolskaya Pravda said Saturday.

Mr. Yeltsin's most vocal rival, Alexander Lebed, a former security chief, has called for the Kremlin chief to quit.

Ordinary Russians, many of whom see little direct connection between their daily lives and what happens in the Kremlin, appeared calmer about Mr. Yeltsin's latest illness.

Financial markets also shrugged off reports on his health, sending Russian markets into record territory Friday. Some analysts said they expected more enthusiastic buying Monday.



INTERNATIONAL

Belgrade Hints It May Back Down

By Michael Dobbs and Jonathan Randal
Washington Post Service

BELGRADE — The Serbian government, under tremendous domestic and international pressure, is hinting that it may be willing to back down in a prolonged trial of strength that has brought hundreds of thousands of demonstrators into the streets.

The first sign of what would be a major political retreat by President Slobodan Milosevic came at a meeting between Serbian government officials and students who have been protesting the regime's refusal to recognize opposition victories in local elections Nov. 17.

After the meeting, the government issued a statement saying that the citizens' will "must be fully respected" and calling for the punishment of anyone responsible for election violations.

[After talks with both sides in the Serbian crisis, Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos of Greece said Sunday that a solution was possible based on a report by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Reuters reported. The organization's report upheld opposition victories in the disputed elections.

[Mr. Pangalos met with Mr. Milosevic and leaders of the opposition coalition Zajedno, or Together.

[The official press agency Tanjug said the Pangalos-Milosevic meeting was cordial. But it made clear the Serbian government resented growing international pressure to resolve the crisis, suggesting Mr. Pangalos's mission had achieved little. Thousands of whistle-blowing protesters rallied in central Belgrade again Sunday.]

A member of the ruling Socialist-led coalition said privately that Mr. Milosevic, who earlier appeared to be hoping the demonstrations would wane, now seemed eager to reach a swift resolution of the eight-week crisis.

In the last few days, some of the president's supporters and key sections of the Serbian business, cultural and political elite have abandoned him.

In Brussels, John Kornblum, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Europe, said Washington was considering a unilateral freeze on new trade deals and high-level visits to Belgrade as a means of maintaining the pressure on Mr. Milosevic to recognize the election results. He told reporters that a six-nation contact group on the former Yugoslavia had ruled out international sanctions against Serbia, but that individual countries were considering their own measures.

Opposition leaders reacted skeptically to Belgrade's conciliatory signals and pledged to continue protesting until their demands were met in full. The demands include an explicit acknowledgment of opposition victories in contests for the city assembly in Belgrade and 13 other towns, and guarantees that parliamentary and presidential elections scheduled for later this year will be free and fair.

Vuk Draskovic, a leader of the opposition Socialist Renewal Party, said he would not comment on "hearsay news" about the government's intentions, and demanded an unambiguous statement on election results.

Addressing an opposition rally in Belgrade's central square, Vesna Pesic of the Civic Alliance stated that the protesters had no intention of saying, "Thank you, Mr. Dictator."

She said, "We have not been here for 53 days to say 'Thank you.' "

In its statement, the government said it would instruct the Justice Ministry to order the "competent state bodies" to establish urgently the final results of local elections, but made no mention of specific electoral contests.

The initial results of the elections were overturned by a regime-controlled court on Nov. 24, in response to a series of appeals by the dominant Socialist Party citing alleged irregularities in the balloting. A further round of voting was then ordered, and the opposition boycotted it.

The combination of international and domestic pressure has seriously weakened Mr. Milosevic. There is a growing consensus in Belgrade that using force to break up the daily street demonstrations is no longer a serious option.

The only alternative, therefore, is to reach an accommodation with the opposition. But this would entail major concessions by the government, including the surrender of the state monopoly of electronic media. That would undermine Mr. Milosevic's ability to win the next presidential election, which must take place by the end of the year.

■ Electoral Commission Resists

The electoral commission in Nis, the main city in southern Serbia, refused Sunday to bow to government demands and reinstate an opposition victory in the local elections, Agence France-Presse reported, quoting the opposition.

Aleksandar Krstic, an opposition spokesman, said the commission was sticking to its original decision to call for a further ballot for nine remaining seats on the municipal council. A new vote could hand overall control of the body to Mr. Milosevic's Socialist Party.

"There is no question of accepting this decision by the electoral commission," Mr. Krstic said. "We shall start complaining tomorrow."

Belgrade has already conceded defeat in Nis and had ordered the electoral commission to recognize the opposition victory.



Falah Mir/Reuters

WELCOME BREAK-FAST — Poor women lining up for free meals Sunday in Baghdad, during Ramadan.

PROTESTS: *In Serbia and Bulgaria, the Difference Is Economic*

Continued from Page 1

discontent is growing, also."

In Bulgaria, the end of one-party rule has meant big price rises and a sharp increase in violent crime, a shock to pensioners who make up nearly a quarter of the population and traditionally vote for the Socialists, the former Communists, in hope of a return to the "good old days."

The election of Petar Stoyanov, an opposition lawyer, to the Bulgarian presidency in November marked the start of a wave of opposition to the Bulgarian Socialist Party, which headed seven of Bulgaria's eight governments since the end of Communist rule in 1989.

"If the BSP sees this as a coup d'etat, the united opposition sees it as the justified wrath of people who took to the streets because they are hungry and see no future for themselves," Mr. Stoyanov, who is due to be sworn in next Sunday, said on Saturday after meeting European ambassadors in Sofia.

"I asked ambassadors what would the citizens of their countries do if their monthly wages were between $16 and $20 and the price of bread is 50 cents," Mr. Stoyanov said.

Annual inflation of more than 300 percent has eroded Bulgarians' real incomes but the nation of 8.4 million people is a far more free society than Yugoslavia.

Elections are held without interference, newspapers are outspoken in their criticism of the government and state television has shown dramatic footage of the protests.

The Serbian state press barely mentions the protests except to describe them as a foreign plot to destabilize the state, and the government at one stage took private radio station B-92, which offers daily live coverage of the protests, off the air.

A main difference between the two is that Serbian Communists, home-grown rather than imposed by Moscow, have ruled without interruption in Belgrade since 1945, surviving the 1989 revolutions in Eastern Europe intact.

When one-party rule started collapsing elsewhere in the late 1980s, the Communists in Belgrade under Slobodan Milosevic regrouped as Socialists, then whipped up national fervor, invoked a siege mentality and tightened their grip on the state media.

Bulgaria's veteran Communist leader, Todor Zhivkov, was overthrown in 1989, but leading Communists reformed as the Socialist Party, continuing to rule apart from an 11-month interlude in 1991-92.

While in both countries the protests have united squabbling opposition parties, it remains to be seen whether the Socialists' critics can provide the political and economic leadership necessary to form governments, but their supporters are determined they should have the chance.

"We want the whole world to see our suffering and the arrogance of the Socialists," said Stoyan Georgiev, a protester. "They will not frighten us with the brutality of the police because we have chosen our future, and in our future Socialists no longer exist."

BULGARIA: *Offer of Talks*

Continued from Page 1

elections, according to Bulgarian television.

With inflation at 311 percent and a fall in gross domestic product of 8 to 10 percent in 1996, Bulgaria has dropped to the bottom of the table of Eastern European economies in transition.

The protests come in the wake of eight weeks of rallies in neighboring Serbia, where another leftist government is reeling from opposition forces demanding the recognition of electoral victories.

Mr. Stoyanov said that the Bulgarian protesters had been inspired by their Serbian counterparts, but stressed that they had different goals.

"The Belgrade slogans are too abstract for the starving Bulgarians," he said. "The Serbians are fighting for political and press freedom. Here, the people are fighting for their survival, to be able to buy bread and keep warm."

"We must hold elections at the beginning of June," the president-elect told Agence France-Presse. "The people are desperate. They cannot survive on a salary of $20 a month." *(AFP, AP)*

CLINTON: *Historic Issues as Supreme Court Weighs Jones Suit*

Continued from Page 1

hundred dollars through a trailer park and there's no telling what you'll find."

Whatever the merits of Ms. Jones's case — and an article in The American Lawyer and a cover story in Newsweek have argued that her charges deserve to be taken seriously — the legal history of the case to date suggests that the Supreme Court could allow the case to go forward before 2001. Even if it does not allow the trial to take place while Mr. Clinton is in the White House, it could allow pretrial examination now, with the trial postponed.

A federal judge in Arkansas ruled in December 1994 that a trial, in which Ms. Jones seeks $700,000 in damages for alleged violations of her civil rights, should be delayed until Mr. Clinton leaves office, but said pretrial testimony could begin sooner. Mr. Clinton appealed, and in January 1996, an appeals panel gave a ruling even more unfavorable to the president, saying the case could go to trial.

In a 1982 whistle-blowing case, Nixon v. Fitzgerald, the Supreme Court ruled that no sitting president could ever be sued for official acts but said nothing about private acts.

Mr. Clinton's lawyers have argued that permitting any phase of the litigation to take place before he leaves office would not only disrupt his conduct of the presidency, but also open the gates for a flood of frivolous civil suits against himself and his successors.

Attorney General Janet Reno said recently, "The Justice Department's position is not that there be immunity, but considering the tremendous burdens on the presidency, the matter should be delayed until after the service as president."

Susan Estrich, a professor at the University of Southern California Law School who managed the 1988 presidential campaign of Michael Dukakis, said in a debate in the on-line magazine Slate, "This is just one more political assault on the president, politically motivated and politically pursued."

Ms. Estrich said she doubted that Ms. Jones really had a case under the civil rights statutes, because by her own account Ms. Jones rejected Mr. Clinton's overtures and he backed off. But putting that aside, she argued as follows on the question that will go before the court this week:

"A rule that says that if you want to sue the president, do it before he gets elected or wait till his term is done, is one that encourages valid claims to be brought before the election, when they can be considered by the electorate, not afterward."

Stuart Taylor Jr., who wrote the American Lawyer piece, said in the debate that a "day in court" delayed from 1994 until 2001 was not satisfactory. He argued that "while the president's time is a precious national resource," it would not take much of it for him to confirm or deny Ms. Jones's charges under oath, in a deposition his lawyer could prepare for his signature.

Ms. Jones, now married with two children and living in California with her husband, Steve Jones, an airline-reservations clerk, does not plan to attend the court session Monday. She says she will donate any damages ultimately awarded by the court to charity and has forsworn earlier plans to seek deals for book and movie rights.

Her suit contends that she was invited to the then-governor's room at the Excelsior Hotel in Little Rock by Mr. Clinton's bodyguard, Daniel Ferguson. That contention was confirmed in an interview with The New York Times in the summer of 1994 by Pamela Blackard, a co-worker of Ms. Jones's in 1991, who said she was at the hotel at the time.

In the interview, which has not previously been published, Ms. Blackard told Sara Rimer, a Times reporter, that Ms. Jones returned from the hotel room "in 10, 11, not even 15 minutes," and said: "He tried to come on to me. I'd push him away, say no. Pam, I'm so embarrassed. I should've known better."

AUSTRIA: *Leaders Agree on Bank Sale*

Continued from Page 1

were guaranteed for the time being.

The two coalition partners also agreed that Creditanstalt would remain intact as a legal entity for five years.

The big loser in Europe's longest-running privatization process was an investors' consortium led by the insurer EA-Generali AG, an Austrian unit of the Italian insurer Assicurazioni Generali SpA. The third bidder was an industrial group led by the Austrian retail tycoon Karl Wlaschek.

The only way the sale of Creditanstalt can be stopped is by a ruling of the European Commission, which began looking into the deal after the Generali consortium complained that Bank Austria's bid might have violated European Union law if it was influenced by Vienna's ties to the bank.

Vice Chancellor Wolfgang Schuessel, chairman of the People's Party, said the negotiations had been "hard but very good," adding, "I regret there was the impression given that the coalition was somehow in question. I think it is always a good thing to meet regularly with our partner to discuss various issues."

Chancellor Franz Vranitzky also expressed satisfaction at the compromise.

"I think we've come up with a very fair solution that will lead to long overdue privatization in the Austrian banking sector," he said. "The coalition has worked well together, and we have a breakthrough on a number of fronts."

The agreement is expected to initiate long-overdue consolidation of Austria's saturated banking sector, creating a dominant domestic bank with 400 branches and assets of roughly 1.4 trillion schillings.

Bank Austria has said its profit for 1996 will fall to about 2 billion schillings from 2.17 billion schillings in 1995. The figures were for banking operations only, and did not include Bank Austria's extensive industrial portfolio.

The consolidated bank will have 24 percent of the domestic retail banking market and more than 17,000 workers, making it a bank with "European dimensions," the Finance Ministry said. *(AP, Bloomberg, Reuters)*

CHIEF: *Zimbabwe Village Tweaks Tradition by Installing a Woman as Leader*

Continued from Page 1

crowds," she said afterward, "because as a teacher, I talk to parents."

Miss Mabhena is the first woman to be a chief of the Ndebele tribe, and her nomination by her village, which has an official population of 80,000, caused a furor. She has been threatened with both violence and witchcraft, and there was a heavy police presence at her installation ceremony on Dec. 22.

The Ndebele, a fifth of Zimbabwe's population of 11 million, are descendants of renegade Zulu who invaded the area in the 1820s after their rebellion against their king, Chaka, was crushed. They feel they have the militaristic Zulu tradition to uphold, and 100 chiefs met last year to oppose the nomination of a 22-year-old student teacher to take her father's place, even though the country's majority tribe, the Shona, have four female chiefs.

"A chief is a leader in war," said George Moyo, president of the Ndebele Cultural Society, "and there are secrets of warriors, like tactics and *intelezi*, that a woman is not allowed to know."

Intelezi is war medicine sprinkled on soldiers. Mr. Moyo, who lives in Bulawayo township 60 miles (100 kilometers) north of Nswazi, is a *sangoma*, or herbal doctor, and brewing intelezi is something he knows about.

Nor is it right, he and other traditionalists say, that a young woman sit in judgment on men accused of sleeping with other men's wives (the fine is usually two cows), because men would be ashamed to discuss sex with someone as young as their granddaughters.

Chiefs occupy an important role in southern African societies, dispensing law and traditional beliefs in equal doses. British colonial administrators left them in place and even gave them stipends, because they were useful: Villagers respect them, and they resolve minor disputes that would otherwise clog the courts. Chiefs' rulings on civil and criminal problems can be appealed in court; rulings on religious and traditional matters can be appealed to higher chiefs.

Some modern African states have tried to do away with them but found they cannot. Under its new constitution, South Africa sharply limits chiefs' authority — particularly the power to control communal land. But it continues to pay their salaries: The Zulu king, Goodwill Zwelithini, receives $65,000 plus palace expenses; lesser chiefs receive as little as $4,000.

Zimbabwe stripped its chiefs of all powers after independence in 1980 but restored them in 1994 after local officials, appointed for their political connections, proved ineffective and sometimes corrupt. In Zimbabwe, chiefs are paid about $1,200 a year.

Miss Mabhena's father died three years ago at 43, leaving four daughters. By Ndebele custom, a male relative is sought, but her father, a maverick, said he wanted his shy, studious eldest girl to succeed him. The village agreed, reaching a decision in the traditional way, by rough consensus, not vote. Her name was forwarded to Harare, the capital, for presidential approval.

When President Robert Mugabe officially appointed her in 1995, other chiefs and elders protested, provoking a yearlong battle. The objectors spread ugly gossip: They accused her of secretly having had children by a Shona man — she is childless — and of having made the district administrator and the minister of local affairs in Harare fall in love with her. They tried nominating one of her great-uncles for the job instead.

"But he was twice in prison for stealing cattle," said her mother, Nomalanga Mabhena, "so there was no chance he could be chief." Under the law, a chief cannot have a rap sheet.

The president's decision, said John Nkomo, minister of local affairs, was neither a blow for women's rights nor an appeal to the large majority of female voters in Zimbabwe, but simply a recognition, as the law requires, that she was the village's choice.

In any case, Zimbabwe outlaws sex discrimination, he added. There were female guerrilla commanders in the war for independence, and the deputy speaker of Parliament, several cabinet ministers and many judges and executives are women.

But Mr. Moyo sees "culture" as a chasm that no government can leap.

"For women to be magistrates does not affect us," he said. "For a woman to sit in a chief's court is a different story. You are talking about people who are educated to do something different. In Africa, things do not change. Culture is just there."

Mr. Moyo and many on the chiefs' council refused to attend the Dec. 22 induction ceremony. There, to the pounding of drums and dancing feet, Miss Mabhena was invested with the emblems of chieftainship, a mix of Zulu pride and lingering deference to colonialism: a leopard cloak, a white pith helmet and a black staff. The national seal is embossed in silver on the end of the staff, which was once used to crack skulls.

Miss Mabhena is not the head-bashing type. She says Mr. Moyo needs to realize that the army, not chiefs, makes war nowadays.

CALLBACK: *EU Plans Tax on Phone Service*

Continued from Page 1

customer back moments later. The person then dials the number in Dallas, and the call is put through.

The result: the call is billed at American rates rather than, say, those of France Telecom or Deutsche Telekom. The savings are so great, in fact, that a large percentage of customers dial through the American callback services to make calls within Europe.

But now European governments want to subject customers of callback services to their value-added taxes, which vary by country but are sometimes above 20 percent. Until now, the companies have been exempt from these taxes because their operations and billing have been from the United States.

European officials contend that they are just trying to create a level playing field because customers who use France Telecom or Deutsche Telekom already pay the value-added tax.

"The European Union is only trying to make it so that everyone starts on the same footing," a representative of France Telecom said.

With savings ranging from 50 percent to 80 percent, the callback services would still retain a competitive edge even with the taxes, although some customers might find the slight inconvenience less worthwhile.

The European Union's new rules could also affect on-line services and Internet providers because they apply to all telecommunication services that are used by customers within a European country.

In theory, according to industry analysts, a company in the United States that offers on-line shopping over the Internet or that sells information would be obligated to pay value-added taxes to the government of each customer's country.

That raises difficult practical and legal issues because the Internet dissolves national boundaries and allows people to surf at random between sites around the world.

To collect sales taxes, governments would have to know which customers were buying goods or services from which overseas companies and then somehow collect the tax.

That prospect already rankles some European experts.

"How can the European Community take a U.S. company and tell them that you are now a German citizen and you have to pay us taxes?" asked Thomas Ulrich, general manager of Bendig & Partners in Regensburg, Germany, which provides Internet services and markets callback services based in the United States.

Collecting taxes from callback services may be more straightforward, Georg Hofer, general manager of Telepassport, which markets callback services in Frankfurt, said his company would make sure the taxes were paid if it had to.

"We are still investigating it right now to see if it applies to us," Mr. Hofer said. "But we are prepared to do it."

Tuesday

STYLE

From Paris to Milan, from New York to Tokyo, fashion editor Suzy Menkes covers the fashion front. With additional reporting on lifestyle issues, the Style section provides up-to-date information on developments in the changing world of creative design.

Every Tuesday in the International Herald Tribune.

Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune
THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

AFRICA: *With Halting Steps, Continent's Nations Are Moving Toward Democracy*

Continued from Page 1

Changes since then, like the opening of the process to include opposition participation in drawing up voter lists and the use of transparent ballot boxes, led the opposition to accept its defeat this time, and gave the country its first multiparty legislature in 16 years.

Ghana thus joined a select circle of African countries, including Benin, Sierra Leone and Uganda, which conducted what were generally considered free elections in 1996.

What made Ghana even more unusual in the often bitter setting of African politics is that after Mr. Rawlings's victory, the losers congratulated the winner, and Mr. Rawlings, in his inauguration speech Tuesday, reached out to the opposition: "Let us all, no matter what our differing opinions and party loyalties, work toward our common goal, which is the prosperity and well-being of all Ghanaians."

A.J. Kufuor, the losing candidate, said in an interview: "We are moving away from a nondemocratic state toward democracy. The glass is at least half full, and there is a new spirit in which people are making the right noises. We must now add substance to those noises."

This year promises to be equally pivotal, with important votes tentatively scheduled for Nigeria and Zaire, and national elections in Kenya, Cameroon and Burkina Faso.

Already this year, Madagascar has seen what outsiders say is a successful democratic presidential election, returning to office a former Marxist dictator, Didier Ratsiraka. Mali, which saw one of the continent's first democratic transitions at the start of the decade, is expected to conduct another fair vote.

For many other countries, the prospect of truly democratic elections is considerably more muddled.

In many of them, incumbents have already begun to lower expectations by arguing the case for government control and casting doubt about the appropriateness of "Western" democracy for African countries.

One of the most articulate advocates of this line is President Pascal Lissouba of Congo, whose country narrowly avoided a full-blown civil war earlier this decade.

"There is nothing African, nothing from us, in the values of this imported democracy," Mr. Lissouba said in an interview with the Paris-based Jeune Afrique. "We need a long transition to democracy, as long as possible so that we may assimilate and adapt it."

But for Mr. Lissouba's critics, this kind of language is seen as an excuse for perpetuating his grip on power.

Nonetheless, elections in places like Ghana, in which the government and the opposition have largely agreed upon the rules, have begun to have powerful ripple effects.

Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune
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The Case Against China

When President Bill Clinton abandoned his pledge to link trade privileges to an improvement in China's human rights record, he promised nevertheless to stand up for freedom in China where that was a proper American role. Now the administration, and Secretary of State-designate Madeleine Albright, have an opportunity to show whether the administration meant what it said, or whether the United States will yield to Beijing even where it has promised otherwise.

At stake is a forthcoming meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission. Ever since Chinese troops massacred hundreds of students in Beijing in 1989, the commission has considered, but never approved, resolutions urging China to respect the human rights of its citizens. Two years ago the commission came close to adopting such a statement. Last year, after fierce Chinese lobbying and no effective U.S. leadership, the international body agreed, on a close vote, not even to debate the mildest of resolutions.

At her Senate confirmation hearing last week, Ambassador Albright adopted a wait-and-see position when asked whether the United States would seek a resolution this year. There is a need not to wait much longer. China already is campaigning hard to avoid censure. And, unlike the United States, it has not "de-linked" trade and human rights; as always, economic threats and blandishments are integral to China's lobbying. If the United States does not make clear soon that it is prepared to lead at Geneva, it is sure to lose during the session, which runs from March 10 to April 18.

More to the point, it is hard to see how anyone could question that China's human rights performance has worsened during the past year. Leading dissidents have received long jail terms: the 11-year sentence of former student leader Wang Dan is typical.

Bishop Zeng Jingmu, 76, was sentenced to three years of "re-education through labor" for Masses not sanctioned by the official Catholic Church. On Dec. 27, a Tibetan music expert and former Fulbright scholar, Ngawang Choepel, 30, received a breathtaking 18-year jail term for "espionage" after he returned to his homeland to film traditional music and dance. (The U.S. State Department mustered a statement of "concern," not even a condemnation.)

In its suppression of minority rights and of speech, religion and assembly, China invites comparison with the Soviet KGB and gulag at their worst.

The most encouraging reading of Mrs. Albright's statement is that the United States is leaving the door open, hoping for improvements in China between now and March. But such a strategy, chancy at best, certainly cannot succeed without a credible threat of a resolution. There can be no such credibility if the United States does not act soon.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Good for Shevardnadze

Eduard Shevardnadze helped shatter Cold War orthodoxy when he served as Soviet foreign minister in the late 1980s. Now, as president of the former Soviet republic of Georgia, he has shown similar courage in handling the sensitive issue of diplomatic immunity.

Mr. Shevardnadze announced on Friday that at the request of the United States, Gueorgui Makharadze, a senior Georgian diplomat facing probable criminal charges in a fatal Washington traffic crash, would remain in America until the investigation of the incident was complete. The Georgian leader is also prepared to waive Mr. Makharadze's diplomatic immunity from prosecution and punishment if the case proceeds to criminal charges.

No country has a stronger interest in upholding the tradition of diplomatic immunity than America. Immunity, guaranteed under international law, shields embassy and consular officials from arrest and prosecution in the countries to which they are posted. Without it, U.S. Foreign Service officers would be tempting targets for prosecution by countries with less than evenhanded legal systems around the world.

But the Clinton administration slighted neither law, tradition nor U.S. interests when it asked Mr. Shevardnadze to waive Mr. Makharadze's immunity. The Georgian diplomat could face serious criminal charges in Washington as a result of the car crash, which took the life of 16-year-old Joviane Waltrick on Jan. 3. There was good reason for Mr. Shevardnadze to break with normal precedent in this case.

Justice Department prosecutors have not yet filed formal charges in the crash, but officials allege that Mr. Makharadze was speeding and under the influence of alcohol when he lost control of his car in heavily traveled Dupont Circle. His diplomatic status should not shelter him from personal responsibility for his actions. Immunity is meant to let diplomats carry out their official responsibilities free from harassment or retaliation against their countries' foreign policies. It confers no license for reckless personal behavior or for flouting local traffic laws.

Governments occasionally agree to waive diplomatic immunity. But they typically do so for lesser crimes, like shoplifting, that carry lesser penalties. In serious criminal cases, the State Department has a standing policy of requesting waivers of immunity. These are rarely granted, and such cases generally end with the expulsion of the accused diplomat.

But Mr. Makharadze's case, because it led to a loss of life, calls for a judicial resolution. Mr. Shevardnadze has never stood rigidly by diplomatic custom. It is nice to see that he has lost none of the nerve and principle that made him such a distinguished statesman.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

A Budget Gimmick

President Bill Clinton's forthcoming budget will reportedly include, again, a Medicare gimmick so transparent and crude as to give gimmickry a bad name. To help keep the Medicare trust fund "solvent" for a period of time, the administration will supposedly repeat the proposal it made last year to transfer certain home health care expenses out of the part of Medicare that the trust fund supports, and into the part supported by general revenues. The president, if he follows last year's script, will then claim to have accomplished something important — to have "saved" Medicare for the time being. But in fact, he won't have saved a thing. The only real-world effect of the action will be to add to the budget pressure on other programs, while perhaps convincing the Republicans that it remains unsafe to deal on Medicare, because the Democrats are unwilling to discuss the subject in good faith.

What the president would help to solve with the transfer of the home health care costs is a fake problem. The trust fund he would strengthen is little more than an accounting convention. The very division of Medicare into two parts, each with its own source of funds, is artificial and an anachronism. What counts is the total cost of the giant program — if present trends continue, in not too many years it will overtake Social Security and be the largest in the budget — versus the total resources of the government. The accounting transfer would affect neither of these. The deficit would be no smaller, the Medicare cost containment question no closer to solution. Only appearances would be affected — but the legerdemain would have a price.

Under current rules, there is a kind of competition between home health care and other Medicare benefits for the money available each year within the trust fund. The transfer would serve to ease that competition. Some home costs would be paid instead from general revenues. But that would leave less such revenue for the many other programs that also look to general revenues for their funds. Medicare would be protected at the unspoken expense of other programs, and no matter that the president who would thus be exposing these programs says he is determined to protect a lot of them as well.

The president is not running for reelection anymore. It is in his interest, to say nothing of the country's, to have as honest and straightforward a discussion of the intertwined Medicare and budget problems as possible. Using a fake cut to solve a fake problem is not what we would call a promising beginning. Can't they do better than that?

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

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International Herald Tribune, 181 Avenue Charles-de-Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly-sur-Seine, France. Tel.: (1) 41.43.93.00. Fax: Circ., (1) 41.43.92.10; Adv., (1) 41.43.92.12. E-Mail: iht@iht.com
Editor for Asia: Michael Richardson, 5 Canterbury Rd., Singapore 0511. Tel. (65) 472-7768. Fax: (65) 274-2334
Mng. Dir. Asia, Rolf D. Kruegpuhl, 50 Gloucester Rd., Hong Kong. Tel. 852-2922-1188. Fax: 852-2922-1190
Gen. Mgr. Germany: T. Schiller, Friedrichstr. 15, 60323 FrankfurtM. Tel. +49 69971250-0. Fax: +49 69971250-20
Pres. U.S.: Michael Conroy, 850 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022. Tel. (212) 753-3890. Fax: (212) 755-8785
U.K. Advertising Office: 63 Long Acre, London WC2. Tel. (171) 836-4802. Fax: (171) 240-2254
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Watch and Help as China Acquires a Free Press

By Thomas L. Friedman

NEW YORK — China is going to have a free press. Oh, its leaders don't know that yet, but they are being pushed straight in that direction.

The two hottest stock markets in Asia in 1996 were in China — the Shanghai and Shenzhen exchanges. From April 1 to Dec. 9, Shanghai's composite index was up 120 percent, while Shenzhen's was up 315 percent.

One reason was that they are so unregulated, and one reason they are so unregulated is that China has only the most rudimentary securities and exchange system, and it has virtually no independent, responsible, uncorrupted financial press that can credibly highlight the quality stocks and brutally expose those flimflam Chinese companies that don't report timely, accurate or transparent financial data.

Last month, China's government realized that the two exchanges were out of control, because of all sorts of wild speculation and unsavory trading practices. But its tools for dealing with this were limited to one sledgehammer: the state-owned press.

So on Dec. 16 the People's Daily published a blaring editorial warning that stock prices had been pushed to "irrational" and "abnormal" levels.

Guess what happened? Everyone tried to sell at once, both markets plunged, and a lot of little investors got hurt — so many that police had to keep order among furious investors who protested outside brokerage houses in several major Chinese cities.

Today 21 million Chinese own stock. Lots of stock-oriented newspapers and magazines have sprung up. But none really reported effectively on regulatory lapses, or on the state-owned enterprises that were manipulating the markets, or on the Chinese banks that were improperly speculating on stocks, so these papers were little more than tout sheets at a horse racing track.

Indeed, a commentary in the Communist Party newspaper Renmin Ribao stated: "A number of media organizations have played a significant role in boosting the market by consistently predicting rises and seldom cautioning investors against risks."

China's rapid growth allows it to resist external pressure for change. It is so big now it can buy off everybody by dangling huge contracts. But its growth fuels internal pressures for change by creating new constituencies — like shareholders — who demand reform for their own self-interest.

Over time, China's leaders cannot control and monitor their bursting free markets, or prevent little people from getting hurt and then rioting against the government, without the other institutions that go with free markets — from an effective Securities and Exchange Commission to a free and responsible press backed by rule of law.

China's authoritarian leaders don't want a free and responsible press that might also criticize them. How do they balance that concern with their growing self-interest in a press that could help them monitor markets?

That is their problem. But it is important to understand that this is now their problem, and that there are these internal pressures on them to look at the press differently, and that therefore U.S. human rights policy on China should try to nurture that trend.

(Send a delegation led by Arthur Levitt, head of the SEC, and some big-time business editors — instead of more chest-pounding lectures from State Department human rights officers.)

One thing that contributed to the Soviet Union's collapse was the nuclear meltdown at Chernobyl. Without a free press, Chernobyl rumors ran wild. They were even worse than reality, and they devastated what little confidence there was in the regime. I hope it won't take a meltdown of the Shanghai stock market to spur a free press in China.

The New York Times.

Unstable and Dangerous, the Beijing Regime Is a Foe

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — The hermit Communists who run North Korea threaten war one day only to embrace peace the next. In Serbia, Europe's last Communist-style boss, Slobodan Milosevic, hesitates between brute force and political concessions to overcome rising public anger.

This is how global communism ends. The oscillations in Pyongyang and Belgrade sound the death rattle of regimes that sense defeat but don't know how to end their agony.

The same aria of regime-ending change is sung, in different tempo, in Beijing, Hanoi and Havana. China is the principal case of Leninist rulers making desperate compromises to hold power and privilege as long as they can. They, too, behave in schizophrenic fashion at home — opening the economy, brutally suppressing dissent — and abroad.

The political schizophrenia of doomed Communist regimes now poses the greatest threat to global stability. Spared a serious international crisis in his first term, Bill Clinton is not likely to be that lucky the second time around.

He confronts an inherently unstable relationship with China that neither engagement nor containment will resolve. Unable or unwilling to modernize political and military establishments formed in World War II and the Cold War, the Chinese will swing back and forth between confrontation and cooperation, depending on the pressures of the moment.

Initial hopes in the Clinton administration that China could be wooed into long-term reasonableness seem to be giving way to a more realistic assessment of the dangers presented by the unstable power equation in Beijing. Washington cannot advertise or even acknowledge such an assessment, but it is apparent in the pattern of contacts between the two capitals.

While publicly playing down the belligerent threats issued against American cities during last spring's confrontation with Beijing over Taiwan, U.S. analysts concluded that a significant faction within China's aged political and military leadership had little understanding of the devastation that the U.S. military could and would inflict if hostilities erupted.

The most apt comparison of the Chinese attitude seemed to be to Saddam Hussein's vain boasting before the Gulf War of Iraq's battlefield prowess.

Such a misperception is dangerous. The Pentagon seemed to be trying to dispel it when it brought the Chinese defense minister and his vice chiefs of staff to America last month and ferried them around key bases. At one stop the Chinese were flown over six miles (10 kilometers) of armor, helicopters and other advanced weaponry.

Has the message about the dangers of tugging on Uncle Sam's cape been received? My own exposure to the Chinese delegation over a ceremonial dinner at the start of their journey suggested that it would be a tough, uneven sell.

But outgoing Defense Secretary William Perry seemed more optimistic in a recent interview, stressing that the administration is making progress in establishing "rules of the road" agreements to prevent accidental military confrontation. He compared the military-to-military agreements to those that the United States struck with the Soviet Union at the height of the Cold War.

Such agreements are appropriate and necessary. They recognize China as a dangerous emerging military power. Under its present leadership it is an adversary, not an ally and not just a giant market.

President Clinton and his diplomatic aides blur the message by continuing to soft-soap the adversarial relations.

Recent developments in North Korea show the benefits of a carefully calibrated policy that combines visible vigilance with a willingness to reduce tensions where possible.

In late December, North Korea suddenly apologized for sending a spy submarine to South Korea in September, and then accepted Washington's long-standing demand that talks about ending conflict in the peninsula include Seoul.

North Korea may be willing to go with a whimper, not a bang. The same may just be true of Serbia's Mr. Milosevic.

The final Communist states are those that kept their governments, military commands and economies out of Soviet control and adapted to local conditions better than did the East European thug regimes that crashed in 1989. (Cuba, as always, is a partial exception.)

This distance seems to have given them later use-by dates than Honecker & Co. But they will not escape the Communist system's fate. Influencing how they go out is one of America's most urgent tasks.

The Washington Post.

Why Should Workers Bear the Brunt of Globalization Pain?

By William Pfaff

PARIS — The explosion of labor protest in South Korea today resembles the strikes that paralyzed the French economy in December 1995. Beyond the national significance and national peculiarities of both episodes, a revolt can be seen — a revolt against the idea that labor, rather than investors or management, should pay the cost of corporate globalization.

Both sets of strikes have enjoyed considerable popular sympathy, despite the public inconvenience they produced. Each became a strike by delegation, in that the public decided that the issues were important to the future of the society, and that the strikers were striking for them, too.

The public puts up with the problems the strikes create and thereby provides indirect support to labor in a conflict in which most people have no direct involvement.

In Korea, since the government's decision on Thursday to bring legal charges against the strike leaders, the affair has assumed major political dimensions. The strikers emphasize this by holding their press conferences in the gardens of the Seoul Catholic cathedral, which, in South Korea's authoritarian past, gave sanctuary to pro-democracy leaders — including the young Kim Young Sam, now president.

Mr. Kim touched off this crisis by calling a session of Parliament for 6 in the morning of Dec. 26, without informing the parliamentary opposition. In just seven minutes his party put through major changes in labor legislation.

Large-scale "downsizing" firings were authorized, together with eased temporary employment and the replacement of workers who strike. New working-hour rules were imposed. New independent unions were forbidden until the year 2000. The South Korean political police, which has a bad reputation, was strengthened.

The president said on Jan. 7, in a speech meant to appease the strikers, that the country must have a more flexible labor force, and that this new labor legislation was essential to improve international competitiveness and meet the demands of the OECD, which South Korea has just joined. The same argument is, of course, made elsewhere as nations compete to create increasingly flexible labor markets — usually meaning labor forces that are ill-paid and docile.

That does not describe South Korean labor. Only one national union is legally authorized, and ordinarily cooperates with management and government, but Korean wages are good (in key areas better than in Britain), even though hours are long.

The OECD has nonetheless congratulated South Korea on its existing labor flexibility. (Unemployment is below 2 percent.) South Korea's actual competitiveness problem today derives mainly from high interest rates and speculatively high real estate costs, rather than from the cost of labor.

However, the cost of labor is something you can do something about, or so the government thought. The threat to arrest the strike leaders is expected to provoke wider unrest and cause the official Federation of Korea Trade Unions to join the unofficial unions on strike.

Like the French strikes of a year ago, these strikes are not protests against technological change or progress in industry and communications, even though the dislocations in global patterns of trade and industrial management are largely technological in origin.

The strikers are protesting the idea that workers are the ones who must pay for globalization. Not management — which in some places, above all in the United States and Britain, has vastly increased its share in company profits. And not investors. The doctrine that prevails in international business today is that maximizing return on capital has priority over any other management responsibility.

This priority, like the notion that increased industrial productivity and competitiveness must be exacted primarily from the labor force, is the result of arbitrary decisions. No law of economics says that return on capital is more important to society than benefit to a work force or to a community.

The West European case is significant in this respect. Western Europe's growth and export performance remain strong despite high wages and much labor "inflexibility" (as well as high unemployment).

In addition to the practical evidence this provides, Europeans can make an intellectual case in favor of high wages and stable work forces, and against the downward pressures on wages and employment exercised in the United States and Britain — and in South Korea.

In Germany in particular, a well-paid, stable and motivated labor force is widely considered an important corporate asset and investment in the corporate future. The European model of "social capitalism" is still widely defended.

The president of the French National Assembly, Philippe Séguin, calls for a joint French-German reaffirmation of social capitalism, in opposition to the threat of what he called "totalitarian capitalism."

The unrest in South Korea is practical expression of a theoretical debate that has scarcely begun, as capitalism reshapes itself under the pressure of technological change. The industrial labor force and the public have not until now had much of a say in that debate. But they will in the future have an important influence on how the debate ends.

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The Reality Is That It Happens

By Anthony Lewis

WASHINGTON — In April 1923, Sigmund Freud was found to have cancer in the roof of his mouth. Over the next 16 years he stoically endured painful operations. But early on he told a new doctor, Max Schur: "Promise me one thing: that when the time comes, you won't let me suffer unnecessarily." They shook hands.

On Sept. 21, 1939, Freud told Schur: "My dear Schur, you certainly remember our first talk. You promised then not to forsake me when my time comes. Now it's nothing but torture and makes no sense anymore."

Schur wrote later: "I gave him a hypodermic of two centigrams of morphine. ... the expression of pain and suffering was gone. I repeated this dose after about 12 hours. Freud was obviously so close to the end of his reserves that he lapsed into a coma and did not wake up again."

In that last scene of Freud's life we can see the issues at the heart of the debate over physician-assisted suicide — the issues argued last week in the Supreme Court.

"The reality is that in practice it happens," Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg observed. A doctor gives large doses of opiates or barbiturates to relieve pain; the patient slips into a coma and dies.

Acting Solicitor General Walter Dellinger replied that that was not unlawful "so long as the physician's intent was to relieve pain and not cause death." Everything turned on the shadowy question of intent.

In fact, counsel and the justices all seem to agree that doctors who cross the shadow line are seldom prosecuted and never convicted.

Kathryn Tucker of Seattle, urging the court to find a constitutionally protected liberty interest in the right to die, spoke of "the underground practice, available mainly to the educated and affluent."

Laurence Tribe of the Harvard Law School argued that state laws drew a "constitutionally dubious" distinction between two ways of bringing about death. One, which is legal, is for the patient to refuse further medical treatment and order removal of tubes providing nutrition and medication. The other, illegal, is to take a lethal dose.

Justice Antonin Scalia replied that the law had never countenanced suicide. He repeatedly decried the effort to read the guarantee of liberty in the constitution as a protection of dignity in dying.

Other justices, one after another, expressed doubt that the issues should be decided by the Supreme Court. There would be difficult problems, Justice Stephen Breyer said, for example, in making certain that a decision to die was voluntary. Wouldn't legislatures be "far more suited to come up with an answer?"

"We're not yet in a position as an institution," Justice David Souter said, "to make the judgment on the extent of either the liberty interest or the interest of the state."

The court's evident reluctance to take on the issue conflicted, in a sense, with the very scene in the courtroom. For the argument was fascinating, illuminating the issues more effectively in two hours than weeks of legislative debate would likely do.

Counsel and the justices had views, but there was an open-mindedness in their exchanges that suggested a willingness to learn. And the discussion ranged through realms of fact and philosophy.

Legislatures do not get enough input from those who wish to die with dignity, Ms. Tucker said, because "people don't deal with it until they're confronted with death."

Justice Souter commented: "The denial of death simply reflects the way we are, and that is a perfectly legitimate attitude to find its way into the legislative process."

Justice Breyer said there were statistics indicating that only 1 or 2 percent of people need to die in pain, given medical methods available today, but that 25 percent do die in pain. He worried about the constitutional consequences of letting the state make people endure that in growing numbers.

The New York Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1897: Niger Massacre

LONDON — Official confirmation has been received of the massacre of the British mission on the Niger. The expedition was quite unarmed and was endeavoring to enter by peaceful means the king's city. All had African experience. The Niger Company believes there is no possibility of any of the white party having escaped. Only seven of 250 carriers got away. The fact of the officers composing the mission to Benin having proceeded totally unarmed is inexplicable, especially as the chief of Benin City was known to be hostile to the British.

1922: Briand Resigns

PARIS — "I have done what I could for my country. Another may do better." With these words, M. Aristide Briand, the French Premier, announced his resignation to the Chamber of Deputies, washing his hands of further responsibility for the negotiations at Cannes and jeopardising the plan for the proposed European economic conference. M. Poincaré, a keen critic of the Government, who stood out against a policy of concessions on the reparations in the Allied conference, accepted to build a new Cabinet.

1947: Transport Strike

LONDON — The Labor government postponed the calling out of troops, trucks of the Army, Navy and Royal Air Force to move London's food supplies tied up for the last six days by a strike of about 15,000 transport workers. Thousands of Londoners were without meat rations or even fish this weekend as a result of the strike. The strikers demand "a forty-four-hour work week, a regulated day, abolition of the accumulative work week and twelve holidays with pay."

LANGUAGE

Going From Small Bore to Full Bore

By William Safire

WASHINGTON — "Mr. Clinton proposes only *small bore* reforms," opined The New York Times in an editorial about Medicare. A couple of weeks earlier, a cheerful harangue in the same space about tax cuts included a prepositional phrase: "But the economy is now operating *at full bore*."

A dissymmetry is apparent. Shouldn't the opposite of *small bore* be *big bore*? Or shouldn't the opposite of *full bore* be *empty bore*?

Full-bore, hyphenated when used to modify a noun, is a Britishism that Americans are adopting (like *not to worry* and *sendup*). Curiously, it is defined in an American dictionary, the Random House unabridged, but not yet in the Oxford English Dictionary. "Moving or operating at the greatest speed or with maximum power" is the Random House definition. That "fullest extent" sense is expressed in The New York Times's "the economy is now operating at *full bore*."

Where is it from? "We are working on an entry on *full bore*," says John Simpson of the OED, "and our evidence shows that it derives from the *bore* meaning 'cylinder.' *Full bore* is the widest capacity of a cylinder." Some lexicographers think the *bore* first measured an engine cylinder (and have a 1927 citation), while others think that the origin is from the measurement of the inside of the barrel of a gun. "A .45-caliber gun can take a .44-caliber load," John Snyder of the gun lobby tells me, "so *full bore* would be the *maximum-size* load. In another sense, it means 'maximum capable powder load.'"

Now what about those *small-bore* reforms? "Though *full-bore* and *small-bore* connect with each other technically as firearms terms," says Fred Mish at Merriam-Webster, "they are not opposites on the extended level. One means 'all-out,' the other 'trifling.'"

Winston Churchill wrote in 1898 of "a hundred men wounded by the *small-bore* bullets of a civilised force." The OED has a citation only two years later from the Congressional Record for the extended metaphor: "No *small-bore*, two-by-four, radical politicians can hurt that great court." Unlike its big brother, *small-bore* is used only as a compound adjective and is almost always hyphenated. A nice recent usage was by Dick Morris, the triangulating political strategist: "The issues Washington speaks about every day are in many cases the true *small-bore* issues, or at least the boring issues."

□

"Who are these unreconstructed *wankers?*" demanded Tony Blair, head of Britain's Labor Party and the man favored to become prime minister next spring. In an unguarded moment after getting a rough time from leftist journalists interviewing him in Scotland, Blair expressed his irritation by using a slang noun not widely understood in America.

In a commentary headed "Mind Your Language, Mr. Blair," Magnus Linklater of The Times of London recalled how Prime Minister John Major's use of the expletive "Bastards!" to describe some of his own right wingers had endeared the conservative leader to millions.

"Whether *wankers* will do the same for Tony Blair is more doubtful; indeed, I'm not certain whether the editor of The Times will permit its use in these columns at all."

The editor did, as editors here do on occasion, because the use of a vulgarism by a prominent and respectable political figure — rather than by an entertainer or other celebrity — invites reporting (perhaps with secret glee) on the fact of its use in the most august publications.

The supplement to the Oxford English Dictionary defines *wanking*, a late 1940s word, as "of a male: (an act of) masturbation," with an extended sense for *wanker* of "an objectionable or contemptible person or thing." The supplement warns: "This word and its derivatives are not in polite use."

The most insightful OED citation is a bit of dialogue from the 1978 novel "Jake's Thing," by Kingsley Amis: "'Damon, what's a *wanker?*' . . . 'These days a waster, a shirker, someone who's fixed himself a soft job or an exalted position by means of an undeserved reputation on which he now coasts.' 'Oh. Nothing to do with tossing off then?' 'Well, connected with it, yes, but more metaphorical than literal.'"

Americans interested in British elections should not confuse the British slang verb *wank*, frequently associated with *off*, with the American slang noun *wonk*. The latter may be rooted in the Chinese *huang gou*, "yellow dog," noted in Herbert Allen Giles's 1900 glossary of Far East terms, perhaps picked up by sailors; *wonk* is defined in Frank Charles Bowen's 1929 "Sea Slang" as "a useless hand" and in a later naval slang work as a "midshipman." In current use as a "nerdish grind," *wonk* is a disparagement of excessive studiousness or concern with minutiae, as in *policy wonk* (which Tories could accuse Blair, in the Clinton mold, of being).

New York Times Service

INTERNATIONAL

China's Neighbors Are Less Worried

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE — Despite China's rapid economic growth and military modernization, Asian officials and others in the region say the emerging giant is less of a threat than first feared.

Two years after Beijing worried its neighbors by seizing Mischief Reef in the South China Sea from the Philippines and nearly a year after it sent further shock waves through the region by menacing Taiwan, Asia's emerging giant is still seen as a potential bully.

But in a significant change of attitude, leaders here have put the threat in a different perspective.

"At present, when people refer to China as a great power, it is more diplomatic courtesy than reality," said Lee Kuan Yew, the Singaporean senior minister who frequently visits the country for talks.

Only by 2025, he said, would China be "an economic heavyweight, with corresponding regional and global influence."

Tensions between Beijing and Taipei have eased, but China's large-scale war games close to Taiwan ahead of the island's presidential elections in March showed major weaknesses in China's armed forces.

"China's defense budget and military capabilities started from a very low base, and they still have a long way to go to acquire offensive capabilities," said Jusuf Wanandi, chairman of the supervisory board of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Indonesia.

If efforts to engage China in mutually beneficial economic, political and security ties failed, he said, and Beijing "does not play according to international and regional rules, she will suffer because a united front against her will definitely not be conducive for China's modernization and development."

According to Asian officials and analysts, a series of actions over the last nine months by Beijing have helped to calm regional concerns that China might use its economic strength to quickly build dominant military muscle for use in winning the many territorial disputes it has with its neighbors.

In an important gesture of cooperation, Beijing agreed to share with the Philippines leadership of a March meeting of officials from the 21 member countries of the ASEAN Regional Forum to discuss confidence-building measures.

When the forum — initiated by the Association of South East Asian Nations — first met at ministerial level in 1994, China was a reluctant participant in the effort to defuse tensions and develop cooperative security arrangements. But officials said Beijing had since shown an increasingly positive approach.

President Fidel Ramos of the Philippines said recently that while Chinese officials continued to insist on their country's indisputable sovereignty over the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, they were now ready to approach territorial disputes and conflict over maritime rights and interests on the basis of international law.

Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei also claim all or parts of the Spratlys, an area encompassing valuable oil and gas fields and strategic shipping lanes that is far closer to Southeast Asia than to the Chinese mainland.

Mr. Ramos said Beijing and Manila had agreed on a code of conduct in which both sides promised to settle their dispute over the Spratlys, including Mischief Reef, without the use or threat of force.

"Certainly, the atmosphere is better now than it was in early 1995," when China first occupied the reef, he said. "We must endeavor to integrate China into the Asia-Pacific community — economically through APEC, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, and politically through the ASEAN Regional Forum — if we are to have enduring regional stability."

In November, after attending the annual APEC summit meeting and making a state visit to the Philippines, President Jiang Zemin of China went to India and signed an agreement in which each side pledged not to attack each other across a disputed Himalayan border. They also agreed to pull back an unspecified number of troops from the area.

Dipankar Banerjee, a retired Indian army major-general who is co-director of the Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies in New Delhi, said the agreement was "a powerful commitment towards peace and comes close to a no-war pact."

Mr. Jiang's visit, he added, was part of Beijing's "ongoing attempt at improving bilateral relations with its neighbors, especially those with whom there are outstanding issues, such as Vietnam, the Central Asian republics and Russia."

China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan reached an accord last month to reduce forces along their borders, after signing a treaty in April pledging not to attack each other and to give advance notice of any military exercises in their frontier zones.

"China's preoccupations are and will remain mainly domestic for a long time," Mr. Lee said. "It needs good relations with its neighbors to be free to concentrate on growth and development and to solve pressing problems of poverty, backwardness, and the uneven and unequal growth between its coastal and inland provinces."

Such problems would take more than 50 years to resolve, he added.

BOOKS

WORLDLY GOODS: A New History of the Renaissance

By Lisa Jardine. Illustrated. 470 pages. $32.50. Nan A. Talese/Doubleday.

Reviewed by
Richard Bernstein

WHEN the Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan undertook his fabled circumnavigation of the world on behalf of the king of Spain, one of the instruments he took with him was a globe made by a former German cloth merchant named Martin Behaim, who stole some of the precious information he needed to make it from a guarded cartographic archive in Lisbon.

The globe, which had the latest information garnered from Portuguese explorations, was "copiously annotated, with inscriptions detailing the commodities and the nature of the business opportunities at various key commercial locations in the world."

Behaim's sphere, a beautiful object in itself, is an item of evidence in Lisa Jardine's reinterpretation of that fabulous epoch in human affairs known as the Renaissance. The globe's manufacture was aimed at insuring commercial success, and Jardine's thesis in her glitteringly informational new book, "Worldly Goods," is that the restless quest for wealth and material possessions was the essential ingredient in the rebirth of European civilization that took place in the mid-15th to mid-16th centuries.

Behaim's globe was, in addition, the product of a kind of enterprise that involved not just a sea captain from Portugal and a mapmaker from Nuremberg but also the wider international exchanges that ignored conventional boundaries and systems of belief. It was, in this sense, an artifact that prefigured the world today, especially what Jardine calls "our own exuberant multiculturalism and bravura consumerism."

In establishing this thesis, Jardine, who is a professor of English at Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London, has written a fascinating book full of people, objects and events: often not the people, objects and events that are conventionally known about the Renaissance. Jardine's interest is in what movie people might call the back story, the trends, especially the commercial and economic ones, that gave rise to the immortal works and the titanic figures from the world of art and architecture that are best remembered today.

If there is a fault in this approach, it is that Jardine piles up the evidence into such a large heap that each individual piece gets lost in the immensity of it all. There is a rambling, undifferentiated quality to this book, whose many actors are presented more for the function they fulfill in Jardine's immense and seamless tableau than for their traits of character.

But "Worldly Goods" is nonetheless a notable achievement, less for Jardine's reinterpretation, which is not startlingly original, than for the depth and richness of the historical panorama it presents. Her attention to the material side of things, to the profusion of goods that characterized the Renaissance and the varied energies expended in acquiring them, is an important explanatory complement to the many histories of the period that have dwelt on its sublime works of art.

Jardine establishes her theme from the beginning with a tour of the Sainsbury Wing of the National Gallery in London. Here are the paintings that emblemize the Renaissance as a "'golden age restored,' an age in which the characteristic mood was a kind of lofty self-confidence, spiritual arrogance and an associated antique ideal of Aryan virtue or manliness." But, establishing her contrarian position, Jardine asks, "Why, then, do these paintings fail to live up to our expectations?"

Her answer relates to her overall vision of the Renaissance as a matter of avid materialism rather than sublime cultural achievement.

Jardine's subjects include the impetuous development of the international trade in luxury goods, a trade that involved so powerful a profit motive that merchants and kings acquiesced in the conquest of Constantinople by the Ottoman Turks in 1453, so long as trade with the East continued unabated (which it did). She writes of the early development of book publishing, which she says was driven not so much by intellectuals interested in the dissemination of ideas but by hardheaded printers looking to make money in a developing new medium.

Richard Bernstein is on the staff of The New York Times.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

IN general, a declarer is wise to postpone as long as possible the play of a suit that presents a problem. There is a chance that helpful information might become available, or the opponents might oblige by leading the suit. But there is one common situation in which the reverse is true, as Barry Rigal points out in his new book "Step-by-Step Deceptive Declarer Play."

When dummy has a K-J combination and there are small cards in the closed hand, as in the diagramed deal, a guess will be necessary sooner or later. Untypically, sooner is better.

South is playing six diamonds following a brisk sequence in which North has spurned an obvious opportunity to use Blackwood. The heart nine is led and won with dummy's king. A routine player would draw trumps and cash all the major-suit winners before leading a club from the closed hand.

But that makes the defense very simple. If West has the ace, he will duck promptly with the certainty that there are no defensive tricks available in the other suits. Now South has a complete guess, and will make his slam about half the time.

An expert in the South seat will understand that clubs should be led quickly: He will cross to the diamond ace at the second trick and lead a club. Now it is very difficult for West to duck smoothly. From his angle, South could easily have a singleton club and a duck could be fatal. There could be an unavoidable loser in spades or trumps, and South's only chance would be to steal the club king.

NORTH
♠ A 10 8 5
♡ K
♢ K 10 7 5
♣ K J 5 3

WEST
♠ J 6 2
♡ 9 8 7 6 3
♢ J 4
♣ A 8 2

EAST
♠ 9 7
♡ Q 10 5 4 2
♢ 8 2
♣ Q 10 9 7

SOUTH (D)
♠ K Q 4 3
♡ A J
♢ A Q 9 6 3
♣ 6 4

Both sides are vulnerable. The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♢	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	6 ♢	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West leads the heart nine.

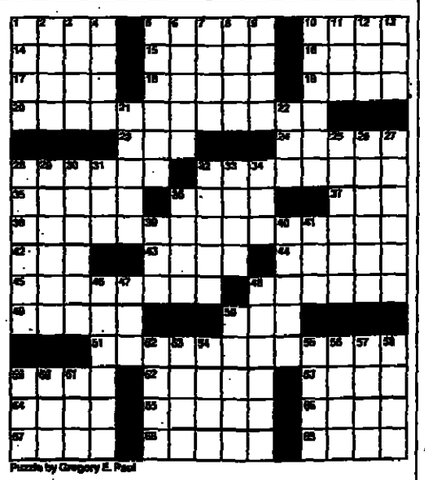
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Poverty
5 Mutual of ——
10 Track tipster
14 Neighborhood
15 Artist Bonheur and others
16 Like Solomon
17 Watch face
18 Whitney's partner in airplanes
19 Pizazz
20 1970's New York Knick's nickname
23 Western alliance: Abbr.
24 Sidestep
28 Grotto
32 20- and 51-Across, e.g.
35 States firmly
36 To —— (precisely)
37 "—— the season to be jolly"
38 Hank Ketcham comic strip
42 Purpose
43 Harrow's rival
44 Dog: Fr.
45 When American elections are held
48 Rio —— (border river)
49 Take care of, as duties
50 Nearly worthless coin
51 1960-66 N.B.A. scoring leader, informally
53 Jellystone Park bear
62 "I don't give ——!"
63 Scent
64 G.I. addresses
65 Jazz singer Vaughan
66 Bum soother
67 Didn't part with
68 Pickpocketed
69 Physics unit

DOWN

1 Walk in the baby pool
2 La Scala solo
3 Not distant
4 Six-foot or more
5 Annie, e.g., in the comics
6 Followays
7 "Rush!"
8 Abhor
9 30's movie dog
10 Midnight
11 Source of Rockefeller money
12 Red, white and blue initials
13 Hamilton's bill
21 Trunks
22 Seminary subj.
25 Reach
26 Cleared, as a winter windshield
27 Ancient Palestinian
28 West Pointers
29 Boulevard
30 Buyer
31 Suffix with east or west
32 One of the Three Musketeers
33 MTV's target viewer
34 Haw's partner
36 Bar member: Abbr.
39 Poseidon's realm
40 Pale colors
41 Shelter grp.
46 Double curve, as in yarn
47 "How —— love thee? Let me ."
48 "Faust" dramatist
50 Sand bar
52 Sweetheart
53 "Anything but ——!"
54 Bullfight bull
55 "The Wind in the Willows" character
56 Without thought
57 Diving bird
58 Chestnut or walnut
59 Talk, talk, talk
60 Unlock, in poetry
61 Republicans, collectively

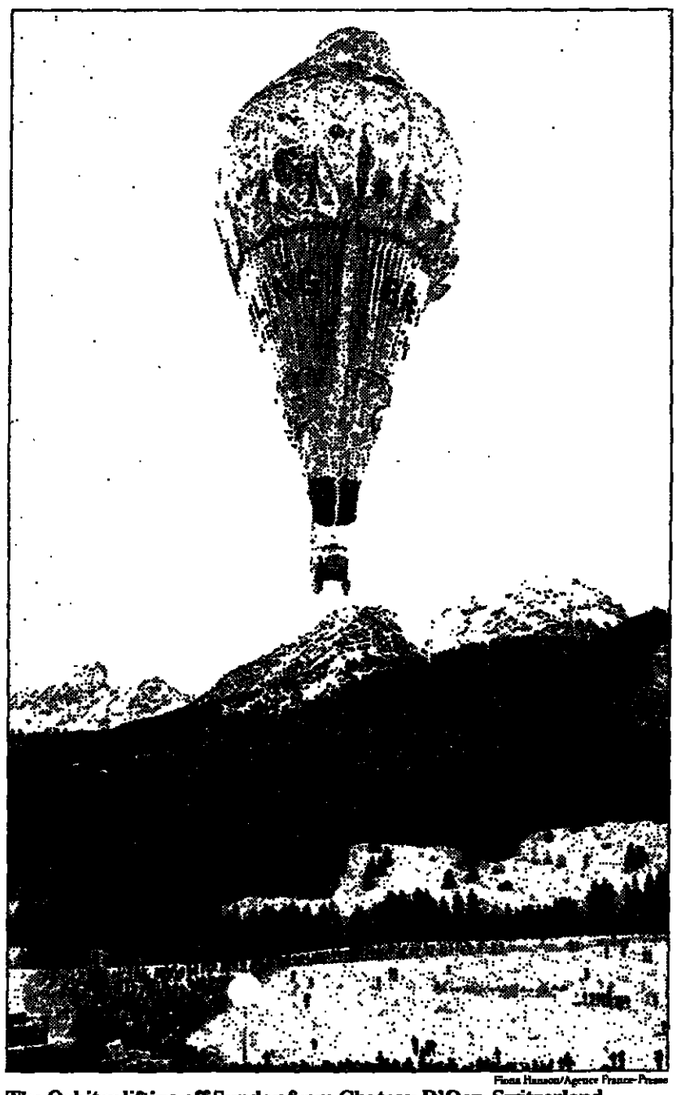


Puzzle by Gregory E. Paul

© New York Times/Edited by Will Shortz.

Solution to Puzzle of Jan. 10

S	A	L	T	P	I	T		H	E	L	M	U	T	
H	I	A	W	A	T	H	A		E	L	O	I	S	E
A	R	G	O	N	A	U	T		R	O	O	T	E	R
K	Y	O	T	O		D	R	A	T		K	E	R	N
			H	U	B		A	B	Z	U	G			
P	U	R	I	T	A	N	I	C		B	O	S	O	M
A	T	E	N		N	O	N		G	I	O	T	T	O
R	I	G	G		D	R	A	M	A		D	E	A	N
O	C	A	S	E	Y		N	O	M		I	N	R	E
L	A	L	A	W		O	D	D	M	A	N	O	U	T
			L	E	A	D	S		A	M	A			
S	H	A	W		P	E	N	A		A	F	L	E	A
H	O	R	A	C	E		O	P	I	N	I	O	N	S
O	B	E	Y	E	R		W	I	N	D	L	A	S	S
T	O	S	S	E	S			S	C	A	M	M	E	D



Fiona Hanson/Agence France-Presse

The Orbiter lifting off Sunday from Chateau D'Oex, Switzerland.

Second Balloon Fails in Bid To Circle Globe

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

GENEVA — A Swiss bid to circle the world in a balloon ended abruptly in the Mediterranean Sea on Sunday, just days after a British challenger, the entrepreneur Richard Branson, narrowly escaped disaster in the Algerian desert.

Organizers said kerosene had leaked into the cabin, forcing the two pilots to abandon their flight less than six hours after they set out from the Swiss mountain resort of Chateau D'Oex. Kerosene is used to heat the mixture of hot air and helium which allows the balloon to stay aloft.

The Orbiter balloon landed 30 kilometers (19 miles) south of the French town of Montpellier. Authorities sent a rescue helicopter to the scene.

The two pilots, Bertrand Piccard of Switzerland and Wim Verstraeten of Belgium, were "safe and sound," said the sponsors, Breitling, in Geneva.

The balloon was equipped with parachutes in the event of an emergency landing.

The two men had lifted off with the sunrise, hoping to circle the world in less than three weeks and so achieve the last unconquered feat of aviation.

Their balloon was meant to head south toward Egypt and then pick up the fast jet stream winds. It aimed to be carried by the winds over the Himalayas, California and then back to Europe.

But faced with breathing difficulties because of the kerosene, the two pilots decided to cut their losses and abort the journey, Breitling said. There were no immediate reports of damage to the balloon itself.

"This failure a few days after Richard Branson's underlines again the difficulties" facing such projects, said Andre Rochat, a spokesman for the trip. He said they "have to juggle technologies which are impossible to test in real conditions before they take off." *(AP, AFP)*

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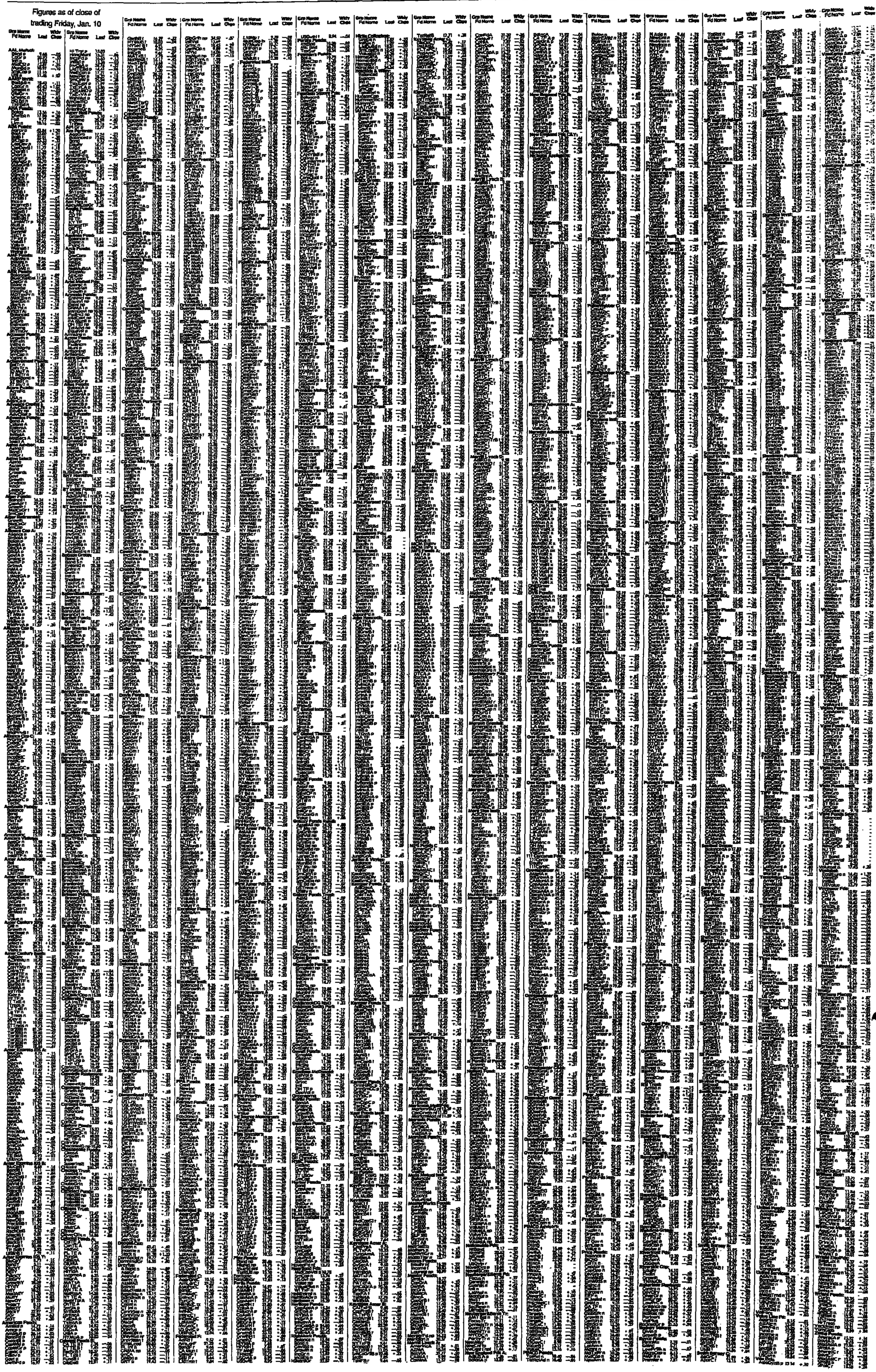
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MUTUAL FUNDS

Figures as of close of trading Friday, Jan. 10



GM Gamble Turned Tide In Spy Case

Racketeering Law Forced VW's Hand

By Edmund L. Andrews
New York Times Service

RUSSELSHEIM, Germany — By the time he walked into a Washington law office last Tuesday for settlement negotiations, Jens Neumann, the chief lawyer for Volkswagen AG, knew who was holding the cards: General Motors Corp.

For nearly four years, Mr. Neumann had been locked in a bitter and visceral legal battle with the rival automaker over accusations of industrial spying.

As recently as a year ago, GM appeared to have been bogged down in bringing its case against Jose Ignacio Lopez de Arriortua, its former executive whom it had accused of stealing thousands of documents when he defected to Volkswagen.

The turning point was GM's decision to take a chance last March and file a lawsuit against VW in Detroit that laid out in stunning detail how thousands of pages of documents allegedly taken by Mr. Lopez or his associates had contained confidential information about one of the most closely guarded subjects in the industry: what manufacturers pay for parts. The case also contended that Mr. Lopez had walked off with GM's secret plans for "Plant X," a cost-efficient approach to assembling cars and trucks.

By invoking the Racketeer-Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act in some of its accusations, GM left VW open to triple damages if the U.S. charges held up in court.

After that lawsuit, and a series of court rulings brushing aside VW's attempts to block a trial, settlement talks began in earnest in September.

By Thursday, both sides had a deal. VW agreed in principle to pay GM $100 million, to buy at least $1 billion worth of GM parts over the next seven years and to issue a statement that acknowledged GM's "concerns with respect to possible wrongdoing."

At its headquarters in Wolfsburg, Germany, Volkswagen executives were keeping a low profile but were clearly relieved to have reached a settlement that is only a fraction of the $3 billion to $4 billion GM is said to have demanded. "The compromise is a little cloud on an otherwise bright sky," a Volkswagen representative, Klaus Kocks, said Friday.

Meanwhile, Mr. Lopez, who resigned from VW several weeks ago and has been out of sight for months, will probably face a criminal trial later this year in Germany. Volkswagen, which had long insisted that it had never received any documents, has agreed to send GM back whatever is left from Mr. Lopez's hoard.

"There really is no dispute any longer that he took our confidential documents," said Thomas Gottschalk, GM's general counsel. "They recognize that that occurred."

The civil suit may also have galvanized German prosecutors. After mulling over the evidence for nearly three years, they let it be known in October that they would probably be filing charges against Mr. Lopez and several of his associates.

But the conflict also posed a ticklish choice for GM, which may have had a great deal to do with its own eagerness to sign a peace pact.

Put simply, the risk was that GM might win the battle against Volkswagen but lose the war for consumers in Germany and elsewhere in Europe.

GM's Adam Opel AG subsidiary manufactures 700,000 automobiles in Germany, second only to Volkswagen. But if the company became branded as an American bully, the cost to its image could have far outweighed the gains from a legal victory. If the fight had actually reached the courtroom, Volkswagen would undoubtedly have rallied tremendous political support in Germany.

"We were right to bring the civil suit," said David Herman, chief executive of Opel. "But it was never our interest to destroy Volkswagen, and we would never have allowed it to happen."

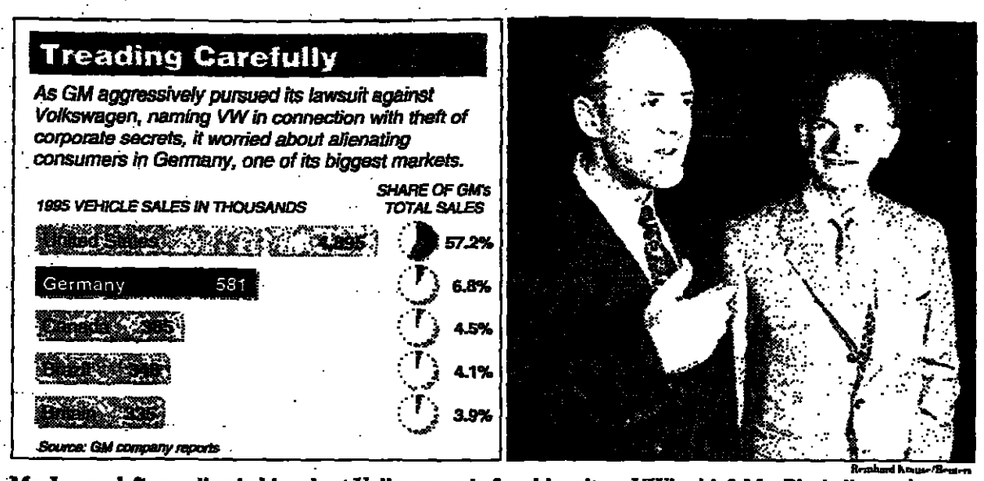
Peter Heckel, a lawyer who fought many of GM's court battles in Germany, put things more bluntly.

"We always had to negotiate with one eye on the market," he said.

■ VW Backs Chief Executive

Volkswagen on Sunday reaffirmed its confidence in its chief executive, Ferdinand Piech, and pledged to extend his contract until 2003, Reuters reported from Frankfurt.

"Piech helped to bring about" the GM settlement and was fully behind carrying it through," the head of the VW supervisory board, Klaus Liesen, said in an interview with the Welt am Sonntag newspaper. "There is no doubt that his contract will be extended."



Reinhard Krause/Reuters

Mr. Lopez, left, reveling in his role at Volkswagen before his exit, as VW's chief, Mr. Piech, listened.

Time for Talk Is Over For Japanese Leader

Tokyo Investors Want to See Swift Action to Prop Up Markets

By Velisarios Kanoulas
International Herald Tribune

TOKYO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto will find that the sharp decline in Japanese share prices has vaulted to the top of the list of issues demanding his attention when he returns Tuesday after a week-long trip to Southeast Asia.

Amid signs that confidence is waning in Mr. Hashimoto's ability to steer Japan smoothly out of its doldrums, the stock market last week suffered its sharpest weekly drop since September 1990.

Financial markets are also urgently awaiting Mr. Hashimoto's response to

NEWS ANALYSIS

fears about a tax-and-spend draft budget unveiled last month, the impact of reform on the country's beleaguered financial system and the health of the broader economy.

"The next three months are going to be tough for Hashimoto because he has to pass the budget, and he's going to be bombarded with conflicting demands," said Christopher Redl, analyst at ING Barings.

On Friday, government leaders had little to say in Mr. Hashimoto's absence as the benchmark Nikkei 225 Stock Average ended 770.22 points lower, or down 4.26 percent, at 17,303.65, leaving it down more than 2,000 points for the week.

Afraid share prices could suffer more declines this week, the country's business leaders, its fractured opposition parties and, analysts say, members of Mr. Hashimoto's own Liberal Democratic Party have called on the prime minister to act swiftly after he returns from his trip to limit the stock market's impact on the economy. Mr. Hashimoto has visited Brunei, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam and Singapore to outline the country's policy on the Asia-Pacific region.

Analysts say the economic recovery is so fragile that any miscalculation in government policy could send Japan back into recession.

Mr. Hashimoto came to power a year ago and since the start of his second term in November he has repeatedly pledged to slash a ballooning budget deficit and deregulate the financial sector and the rest of the economy. He has praised the draft budget as a bold first step to implement his planned reforms.

But investors in Japanese shares saw little difference between the latest and past draft budgets. Their response was to go on the offensive, selling shares and pressing Mr. Hashimoto for fewer words and bolder actions.

The stock market started its slide after the cabinet's approval last month of a Finance Ministry draft budget for the 12 months starting April 1. It contains tax rises of 7 trillion yen ($60.3 billion) and government spending increases on projects with little perceived benefit for the broader economy of 3 trillion yen.

But stock market investors, the business community and its bureaucrats were at odds over what should be given most priority in the budget: deficit reduction or deregulation and economic growth, Mr. Redl said.

Among the Finance Ministry officials who drafted Japan's budgets there is a sense of urgency about cutting the national debt, which at around 400 trillion yen is seen as being out of control.

Yet the business community and stock market investors fear that the Finance Ministry's emphasis on raising taxes and cutting spending to lower the budget deficit is misplaced and that the economy needs tax cuts and deregulation to shrug off the pessimism.

"What the economy needs is for the government to abolish taxes on share and land transactions and to drop its ban on holding companies," said Nobuyuki Nakahara, honorary chairman of Tonen Corp., an oil company.

Mr. Hashimoto has also come under attack from opposition parties and from young members of his own party.

"There are concerns that the budget formed under the initiative of the Liberal Democratic Party has turned back the clock," said Yukio Hatoyama, a co-leader of the Democratic Party. "At a time when a financial crisis is seen to be emerging, politicians cannot just sit back and watch."

Seoul Faces Struggle Over Finance-Sector Reform

Reuters

SEOUL — The government of South Korea, battling striking workers over labor reform, also will face a struggle to carry out a restructuring of the finance sector needed to lift the sagging economy, analysts said Sunday.

President Kim Young Sam said last week that the heavily regulated sector urgently needed reform to bring it line with global trends. He said a Committee for Financial Reform would be set up to draft proposals to improve competitiveness.

But analysts said Mr. Kim would face stiff opposition from powerful bureaucrats.

"Almighty government officials will not give up their control easily," said Koo Kyung of Dongwon Economic Research Institute.

"Financial reforms have been a buzzword since Kim's inauguration in 1993," said Lee Hahn Ku, president of Daewoo Research Institute. "But the refreshed call for reform shows Kim has done little so far to improve the financial industry."

Government officials said initial measures would cut interest rates, followed by more sweeping steps, such as the scaling back of business barriers among financial institutions.

To further open markets, economists have said, financial sector mergers and acquisitions will eventually be allowed.

Mr. Kim said the committee would draw up a short-term reform plan by the end of March and a medium- and long-term plan at the end of the year.

The Finance Ministry unveiled a comprehensive schedule of reform in 1993, giving greater autonomy to banking institutions so they could become more competitive. But not much has been accomplished since then, analysts said.

"Banks continue to be remote-controlled by the ministry and forced to be responsible for the failure of the non-financial companies," said Yoon Suk Hnn of Korea Institute of Finance.

As a result, banks have been saddled with mounting nonperforming loans. No figures were immediately available.

The government's control over the financial sector stems from the 1960s, when South Korea used banks to channel cash it raised overseas to industries deemed strategic to national development.

Seoul has been under international pressure to liberalize its financial regulations to allow more foreign investment on the stock market, which plunged last year during an economic slowdown prompted by falling export growth.

A Daewoo Research report said economic growth would slow to 5.5 percent this year, against its original forecast of 5.9 percent, if production losses from strikes over a controversial new labor law match those of 1989 strikes. The economy grew an estimated 7 percent in 1996.

The new law allows companies to lay off workers and hire temporary workers to break strikes, shattering a jobs-for-life tradition in South Korea.

Official figures issued Saturday show production losses due to the three-week-old strikes had reached $2 billion and export losses were at $345 million.

■ Banks' Reserve Rate to Be Cut

The Bank of Korea, South Korea's central bank, said it planned to cut the bank reserve requirement ratio by about 2 percentage points as part of its efforts to lower market interest rates and stimulate the economy, Bloomberg Business News reported from Seoul.

A bank spokesman confirmed a report quoting Governor Lee Kyung Shik as saying he planned the reduction, to 3.5 percent, in the first quarter.

Analysts say a lower reserve ratio will cut interest payment costs for many Korean companies. Such costs, the government says, are much higher than for Taiwanese and Japanese companies.

The central bank last cut the reserve ratio — the percentage of deposits commercial banks must keep at the bank to protect depositors — in November.

Fed's Lindsey Sees Recession Ahead for U.S.

Bloomberg Business News

WASHINGTON — The United States will face a recession at some point in the future, a departing Federal Reserve Board governor, Lawrence Lindsey, said Sunday.

"There will be a recession, I don't know when it will happen," Mr. Lindsey said in a television interview. The Fed's job, he said, "is to have an expansion that's as long as possible."

Mr. Lindsey will leave the Fed on Feb. 5, creating a second vacancy for President Bill Clinton to fill on the U.S. central bank's board. Another Fed governor, Janet Yellen, has been appointed by Mr. Clinton to head his Council of Economic Advisers.

Mr. Lindsey said the U.S. economy was entering its seventh year of expansion. "You want to try and prevent any excesses from building up in the economy," he said. "I think we've done our job on the monetary front, and so far there have been no major mistakes on the fiscal side."

CYBERSCAPE

An Automated Way to Search the Web

By Rajiv Chandrasekaran
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — It seems to be a requirement these days: A company of any size must have a site on the World Wide Web. Often the material placed there is up-to-the-minute data of instant use to customers — flight schedules, the delivery status of a package shipped a day earlier, stock prices.

But so far there has been a real drawback in how the technology works. To get a specific piece of information, a human generally must connect to the site and look for the data, one piece at a time. Automation hardly exists. There is no easy way, say, for a computer to query a Web site about how 100 different stocks are doing.

Now, in a development that has many corporate computer programmers intrigued, a small software firm in Virginia called TransactNet has released software designed to change that. It holds open the possibility of automating millions of information requests on the Web that now are done slowly, manually, one at a time.

"The Web is a giant repository of data," said TransactNet's founder and president, Phillip Merrick. "But accessing that data hasn't been easy."

The implications are profound, computer experts say. For example, a company that sends thousands of overnight shipments every day could use TransactNet's software to connect its computers to Federal Express Corp.'s Web site to automatically check the delivery status of each parcel. There would be no need for one person to query that site over and over, each time typing in the tracking number of a different package.

Other companies, Mr. Merrick said, could use the software to automatically get any information from the Web.

At the heart of TransactNet's software are complicated instructions that help a computer analyze material on the Web, separating the electronic wheat from the chaff. TransactNet's software is among the first applications to use Java, the industry's hottest new programming technology, for sophisticated computing.

Java was introduced with great fanfare two years ago. Much of its claim to fame is that small programs written in the language, called "applets," can run on different types of computers connected to the same network. But so far Java's main use has been to create simple animation on Web screens — a waving banner in an ad is created by a small Java program that has been sent from the Web site and runs on the user's computer.

TransactNet plans to formally unveil its software product, called Web Interface Toolkit, later this month, Mr. Merrick said. Already, more than 2,000 people have picked up free test copies from the company's Web site, and many of them have started using it to build practical applications.

The software is not intended for home computer owners. Before the software can be used, it must be customized to a particular company's needs, with several thousand more lines of programming. The price isn't right for home users, either — customers will have to pay TransactNet $2,500 for each application they develop using the Web Interface Toolkit, Mr. Merrick said.

Internet address: CyberScape@iht.com.

CURRENCY RATES

Cross Rates

Jan. 10

	$	£	D.M.	F.F.	Lira	D.Fl.	B.F.	S.F.	Yen	C$	Pesete
Amsterdam	1.7775	2.966	1.1226	0.3328	0.1152	—	5.465	1.292	1.5355	1.3385	1.345
Brussels	32.545	54.6525	20.6175	6.1725	2.1124	18.371	—	23.715	0.2819	24.67	24.615
Frankfurt	1.5774	2.6552	—	0.2964	0.1025	0.8981	4.8508	1.1258	1.3694	1.167	1.1937
London (a)	1.6985	—	2.6637	0.5979	2.598.85	2.9871	54.6788	2.2574	194.778	2.2648	222.185
Madrid	133.978	225.488	83.647	24.782	8.571	74.526	4.0571	94.288	114.236	97.595	—
Milan	1,530.88	2,597.78	955.45	288.08	—	858.48	47.233	1,123.30	13.121	1,128.58	11.465
New York (b)	—	1.69	1.2859	5.3538	1,541.00	1.7307	33.79	1.326	116.125	1.2498	132.42
Paris	5.3335	1.9745	3.374	—	3.3457	2.5969	0.1637	3.8307	4.5819	3.9367	4.0355
Tokyo	116.78	198.59	73.96	21.93	0.7559	65.98	2.5986	85.23	—	86.37	0.0889
Toronto	1.3485	2.3054	0.8594	0.252	0.0075	0.7576	0.0727	0.9988	1.1631	—	1.1007
Zurich	1.3753	2.344	0.8977	0.2577	0.0897	0.7729	4.2978	—	1.1819	1.2265	1.0196
1 ECU	1.2339	0.7202	1.1531	4.5798	1,903.29	2.1298	40.2064	1.1855	142.669	1.4714	168.137
1 SDR	1.4289	0.8495	1.3355	7.8233	2,301.98	2.5222	46.5574	1.3988	166.359	1.93	198.738

Closings in Amsterdam, London, Milan, New York, Paris, Toronto and Zurich, fixings in other centers.
a: To buy one pound b: To buy one dollar "Units of 100; N.Q.: not quoted; N.A.: not available.

Other Dollar Values

Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $
Argent. peso	0.9998	Greek drac.	245.65	Mex. peso	7.835	S. Afr. rand	4.676
Australian $	1.287	Hong Kong $	7.738	N. Zealand $	1.4213	S. Kor. won	846.80
Austrian sch.	11.075	Hung. forint	163.61	Norw. krone	6.3924	Swed. krona	6.8717
Brazil real	1.041	Indian rupee	35.845	Phil. peso	26.33	Taiwan $	27.49
Chinese yuan	8.3268	Indo. rupiah	2362.7	Polish zloty	2.89	Thai baht	25.63
Czech koruna	27.34	Irish £	0.6054	Port. escudo	157.25	Turkish lira	110215
Danish krone	6.0082	Israeli shek.	3.2407	Russ ruble	5514.0	UAE dirham	3.6705
Egypt. pound	3.392	Kuw dinar	0.2994	Saudi Riyal	3.7498	Venez. bolív.	478.75
Fin. markka	4.6964	Malay. ring.	2.4781	Sing. $	1.4042		

Forward Rates

Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day	Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day
Pound Sterling	1.6832	1.6821	1.6807	Japanese yen	114.90	114.44	113.93
Canadian dollar	1.3504	1.3479	1.3452	Swiss franc	1.3653	1.3614	1.3571
Deutsche mark	1.5728	1.5700	1.5665				

Sources: ING Bank (Amsterdam); Indosuez Bank (Brussels); Banco Commerciale Italiano (Milan); Banque de France (Paris); Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi (Tokyo); Royal Bank of Canada (Toronto); IMF (SDR). Other data from the Associated Press, Bloomberg and Reuters.

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Japan 0031126609 Korea 0038110243 Luxembourg 08004552 Mexico 958008784178 Netherlands 060220657
N. Antilles 18009945757 N. Zealand 0800441880 Portugal 050112532 Singapore 8001202501 S. Africa 0800996337
Spain 900931007 Sweden 020793158 Switzerland 0800897233 Thailand 001800119230666 Turkey 00800139219013
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CAPITAL MARKETS ON MONDAY

Grim Bond Traders Look to Sales Data

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Treasury bond traders will look to December retail sales data for direction this week, after prices plunged Friday on surprisingly upbeat December U.S. employment data.

The price of the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond fell 1 14/32 point last week, to 95 20/32, with much of that drop coming Friday. The yield finished Friday at 6.84 percent, having begun the week at 6.73 percent.

Investors, who had waited for the jobs report since New Year's, were surprised by the decided show of strength in non-farm payroll, which increased by 262,000 jobs, and especially by a 0.5 percent increase in average hourly earnings.

The rise in wages, a key component of inflation, was more than twice what analysts had forecast, and followed a 0.8 percent gain in November. The increase for all of 1996 was 3.8 percent.

"A lot of economists were looking for a downward revision of hourly earnings. Not only did they not get this, but they got another rise," said Anthony Chan, chief economist at Banc One Investment Advisors. "It dealt the damaging blow," he added, to any bond-friendly suggestion that the Federal Reserve Board would soon ease interest rates.

U.S. CREDIT MARKETS

Even though the holiday shopping season failed to live up to retailers' high hopes, analysts forecast that the December retail statistics would not be weak enough to revive hopes of lower rates.

The most likely outlook is for Treasury prices to keep falling, most traders and investors said.

David Rosenberg of Oppenheimer & Co. said the recent data indicated higher interest rates, but he said he did not expect a series of Fed increases, as in 1994. Thus, he predicted, the yield on the 30-year Treasury bond was likely to challenge 7 percent, and probably reach 7.25 percent, over the near term.

"Strong numbers and thoughts of Fed tightening will still keep the market under pressure next week," said John Ryding of Bear Stearns & Co. But he predicted that effect would fade by the time the benchmark yield hit 7.04 percent.

Jan Terbrueggen of John Nuveen & Co. also predicted higher yields in the short term. "I'm afraid there's nothing technical that shows any kind of stop this side of a 7.20 percent" yield for the 30-year bond, he said.

Some analysts said they also would focus on another report due next week, the consumer price index for December. They planned to focus on the energy components of the index after the producer price index for the month rose 0.5 percent, with most of that rise linked to a jump in energy prices.

(Bridge News, Market News)

Most Active International Bonds

The 250 most active international bonds traded through the Euroclear system for the week ending Jan. 10. Prices supplied by Telekurs.

Rnk	Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
Austrian Schilling					
224	Austria	6⅞	06/20/05	106.1500	6.4800
Belgian Franc					
125	Belgium	9	03/28/03	119.3600	7.5400
173	Belgium	10	08/02/00	118.6000	8.4300
British Pound					
147	Britain	7½	12/07/06	99.0313	7.5700
154	UBS London	8	01/08/07	99.0000	8.0800
168	Britain	7	11/06/01	98.7500	7.0900
211	Abbey Natl TS	6	08/10/99	97.1250	6.1800
246	Salomon	6.906	11/26/01	99.6900	6.9300
Danish Krone					
6	Denmark	8	03/15/06	109.4800	7.3100
29	Denmark	9	11/15/00	113.7600	7.9100
35	Denmark	8	11/15/01	111.0500	7.2000
39	Denmark	9	11/15/98	108.6500	8.2800
46	Denmark	7	11/10/24	93.5400	7.4800
51	Denmark	7	12/15/04	103.9500	6.7300
57	Denmark	6	12/10/99	103.8500	5.7800
65	Denmark	7	11/15/07	101.4900	6.9000
69	Denmark	8	05/15/03	110.6000	7.2300
83	Denmark	7	02/15/98	103.4800	6.7600
110	Denmark	6	11/15/02	101.7000	5.9000
135	Denmark	7	08/15/97	101.9200	6.8700
146	Denmark	6	02/15/99	103.7800	5.7800
160	Denmark	zero	04/01/97	99.2275	3.4700
Deutsche Mark					
1	Germany	6¼	04/26/06	102.1880	6.1200
2	Germany	6½	10/14/05	103.9417	6.2500
3	Germany	7⅜	01/03/05	110.0800	6.7000
4	Germany	8	01/21/02	113.45	7.0500
5	Germany	6⅞	05/12/05	106.6767	6.4400
8	Germany	8¼	09/20/01	114.0800	7.2300
9	Germany	5	08/20/01	101.7900	4.9100
10	Germany	5	05/21/01	101.9050	4.9100
11	Treuhand	7½	09/09/04	110.8633	6.7700
12	Germany	6	01/05/06	100.4560	5.9700
13	Treuhand	6⅝	07/09/03	106.3525	6.2300
14	Germany	8	07/22/02	113.8900	7.0200
15	Germany	3½	09/18/98	100.1300	3.5000
16	Germany	5¾	08/22/00	104.6700	5.4900
18	Germany	8¾	07/20/00	114.1900	7.6600
19	Germany	6	02/16/06	100.4180	5.9800
20	Treuhand	6⅞	06/11/03	107.7283	6.3800
21	Germany	3½	12/18/98	99.9900	3.5000
22	Treuhand	6¾	05/13/04	106.5371	6.3400
23	Treuhand	7⅜	12/02/02	110.7400	6.6600
24	Treuhand	7⅛	01/29/03	109.3600	6.5200
25	Germany	6½	07/15/03	105.7700	6.1500
26	Germany	8¼	08/20/01	116.0600	7.5400
28	Treuhand	6⅝	07/01/99	106.0500	6.0100
30	Germany	7½	11/11/04	110.9300	6.7600
31	Germany	5⅝	11/21/00	102.5900	5.0000
32	Treuhand	7¾	10/01/02	112.5067	6.8900
33	Germany	7	12/22/97	103.5100	6.7600
36	Germany	6¼	01/04/24	93.0767	6.7100
37	Germany	8¼	07/21/97	102.6000	8.0400
41	Germany	5¼	02/21/01	102.8025	5.1100
42	Germany	9	10/20/00	115.5400	7.7900
43	Germany	7½	10/20/97	103.2500	7.2600
44	Germany	6¾	04/22/03	107.3020	6.2900
45	Treuhand	6½	04/23/03	105.9450	6.1400
48	Germany	8½	02/20/01	114.3900	7.4300
49	Germany	6½	03/15/00	106.9400	6.0800
50	Germany	8⅞	12/20/00	115.4800	7.6900
55	Germany	8¾	05/21/01	114.3000	7.3300
56	Treuhand	6¼	03/04/04	103.8500	6.0200
58	Germany	7⅛	12/20/02	109.5500	6.5000
60	Germany	zero	04/18/97	99.2314	2.8900
61	Germany	9	01/22/01	116.0900	7.7500
62	Germany	6⅝	01/20/98	103.4000	6.4100
63	Germany	5⅝	08/20/98	103.6600	5.5500
64	Germany	5¼	11/20/97	101.7500	5.1600
66	Treuhand	5	12/17/98	102.7400	4.8700
67	Germany	5⅝	05/15/00	105.0900	5.5900
72	Spain	5¾	01/03/07	96.7000	5.9500
73	Treuhand	5⅝	09/24/98	103.5700	5.4300
74	Germany	7	01/13/00	108.3000	6.4600
75	Germany	6	06/20/16	93.1000	6.4400
76	Germany	6	02/20/98	102.9800	5.8300
77	Germany	6⅞	12/02/98	106.0700	6.4800
78	Germany	6	09/15/03	103.3783	5.8000
79	Germany	6¼	07/15/04	106.5480	6.3400
80	Germany	2.995	09/30/04	99.1300	3.0200
81	Treuhand	6½	07/29/99	105.9500	5.9000
84	Germany	8½	08/21/00	113.5700	7.4800
85	Treuhand	6	11/12/03	102.8514	5.8300
86	Germany	8	09/22/97	103.2600	7.7500
92	Germany	7¼	10/21/02	110.2025	6.5800
94	Germany	6¾	09/15/99	107.3800	6.2900
96	Germany	5⅛	02/22/99	103.7467	5.1800
98	Cap Credit Card	5⅝	08/15/01	102.1566	5.5100
101	Treuhand	6⅛	03/26/98	103.3500	5.9300
106	Germany	6⅞	02/24/99	106.5600	6.4500
109	Germany	8	03/20/97	100.8900	7.9300
114	Germany	5½	02/25/98	102.1900	5.1400
116	Germany	8⅜	01/20/97	100.1000	8.3700
118	Germany	5¼	10/20/98	103.1400	5.0900
119	Treuhand	5¾	04/29/99	104.5500	5.5000
121	Germany	6⅜	05/20/98	104.0600	6.1300
123	Treuhand	6⅛	06/25/98	103.8950	5.9000
130	Germany	zero	01/17/97	99.9670	1.5200
136	BA Credit Card	6	11/15/05	101.0000	5.9400
148	Germany	6¾	05/02/03	106.6000	6.3300
150	Germany	7¼	10/20/97	103.0600	7.0300
161	Germany	5¾	08/20/97	101.5200	5.6600
169	Treuhand	5	01/14/99	102.8020	4.8600
177	BGB Fin Ireland	5⅝	10/04/01	102.0400	5.2700
180	Germany	8¾	05/22/00	113.9100	7.6800
184	Germany	6¾	08/14/98	104.5400	6.1000
186	Germany	6⅛	05/20/99	105.4900	5.8100
187	Treuhand	7	11/25/99	108.2500	6.4700
188	Germany	5½	05/20/97	100.8100	5.4600
192	Germany	7¾	02/21/00	110.45	7.0200
199	Germany	6¾	01/20/98	103.1300	6.1800
220	Nordrheinwest	6	12/20/06	98.2100	6.1100
221	Germany	5⅝	09/20/16	88.9620	6.3200
228	Austria	6½	01/10/24	95.1000	6.8300
229	Salomon Bros		12/10/97		
233	Germany	6¼	02/20/98	103.2500	6.0500
234	Germany	6⅛	03/20/98	103.3100	5.9300
235	Bavaria	5⅝	01/08/09	90.1658	5.9600
237	Denmark	4¾	01/07/02	99.7000	4.7600
238	Mexico	8⅛	09/10/04	102.7000	7.9100
249	Germany	6½	01/02/99	105.5000	6.1600
Dutch Guilder					
27	Netherlands	6¼	07/15/98	104.1000	6.0000
52	Netherlands	6	01/15/06	101.8000	5.8900
88	Netherlands	9	01/15/01	116.3000	7.7400
93	Netherlands	7½	01/15/23	111.70	6.7100
95	Netherlands	8½	03/15/01	114.8000	7.4000
97	Netherlands	7	03/15/99	106.9500	6.5500
104	Netherlands	8¾	09/15/01	116¾	7.4900
105	Netherlands	8¼	02/15/00	111.9500	7.3700
107	Netherlands	5¾	09/15/02	103.4500	5.5600
108	Netherlands	7½	04/15/10	112¼	6.6500
112	Netherlands	8¼	06/15/02	115½	7.1400
115	Netherlands	7	06/15/05	108.6500	6.4400
117	Netherlands	6½	04/15/03	106.9000	6.0800
122	Netherlands	9	05/15/00	114.8000	7.8400
124	Netherlands	5¾	01/15/04	101.9500	5.6400
134	Netherlands	9	01/15/01	115.1000	7.8200
138	Netherlands	8¾	05/01/00	113.8500	7.6900
151	Netherlands	6¾	02/15/99	106.2500	6.3500
152	Netherlands	7¾	01/15/00	110.3500	7.0200
158	Netherlands	8¼	02/15/07	118.20	6.9800
164	Netherlands	6¾	11/15/05	106.9000	6.3100
176	Netherlands	zero	03/27/97	99.3825	2.9000
178	Netherlands	7½	06/15/99	108.5500	6.9100
185	Netherlands SP	zero	01/15/23	16.6500	7.1300
190	Netherlands	8½	06/01/06	119.40	7.1200
193	Netherlands	7¼	10/01/04	110.6000	6.5600
201	Netherlands	7½	11/15/99	109.4500	6.8500
202	Netherlands	7	02/15/03	109.6500	6.3800
203	Netherlands	8¼	02/15/02	115.1000	7.1700
236	Netherlands	6½	07/15/98	104.4500	6.2200
ECU					
59	France OAT	7	04/25/06	104.5000	6.7000
120	France B.T.A.N.	7¼	03/16/98	103.5100	7.0000
126	France OAT	7½	04/25/05	109.2500	6.8600
127	UK T-note	5	01/26/99	101.2450	4.9400
142	Britain	9⅛	02/21/01	115⅛	7.9000
143	France OAT	6	04/25/04	100.8000	5.9500
166	UK T-note	8	01/27/98	103.8625	7.7000
174	Italy Cte	6½	09/26/98	101.3000	6.4200
175	France OAT	9½	04/25/00	114.3000	8.3100
189	France B.T.A.N.	6	03/16/01	104.2300	5.7600
191	France OAT	10	02/26/01	118.3000	8.4500
197	France OAT	6¾	04/25/02	106.4000	6.3400
200	France B.T.A.N.	5	03/16/99	101.6300	4.9200
218	UK T-note	5¼	01/21/97	100.0100	5.2500
240	Kommuninvest	9	06/09/99	109.5000	8.2200
244	Italy	4.031	10/30/05	99.0400	4.0700
245	Italy	7½	07/26/99	103.4500	7.2500
248	France OAT	8¼	04/25/22	113.2983	7.2800
250	Italy	9¼	03/07/11	123.5000	7.4900
French Franc					
128	France OAT	6¾	10/25/03	108.5100	6.2200
156	France B.T.A.N.	5¾	03/12/98	102.7900	5.5900
163	France OAT	7½	04/25/05	112.4300	6.6700
216	France OAT	8¼	02/27/04	116.7200	7.0700
231	France OAT	7¾	04/25/06	110.3400	6.5700
243	France B.T.A.N.	4¾	04/12/99	102.5400	4.6300
Italian Lira					
167	Italy	7¾	09/15/01	104.3800	7.4200
194	Italy	8½	08/01/99	104.2400	8.1500
Japanese Yen					
162	Fuji Intl		02/01/02		
196	ADB	3⅛	06/29/05	103.8750	3.0100
198	Spain	3.10	09/20/06	102.7500	3.0200
242	World Bank	4½	03/20/03	114⅛	3.9400
Portuguese Escudo					
209	Madeira		07/10/06		
Spanish Peseta					
232	Spain	8.80	04/30/06	112.3560	7.8300
Swedish Krona					
102	Sweden	11	01/21/99	112.4880	9.7800
113	Sweden 1036	10¼	05/05/00	115.5980	8.8700
145	Sweden	13	06/15/01	128.8770	10.0900
182	Sweden	6	02/09/05	97.1040	6.1800
U.S. Dollar					
7	Brazil Cap S.L.	4½	04/15/14	78.8224	5.7100
17	Argentina FRN	6⅝	03/29/05	84.9542	7.8000
34	Brazil	6½	01/01/01	97.3760	6.6800
38	Brazil L	6½	04/15/06	88.5880	7.3400
40	Argentina par L	5¼	03/31/23	61.8120	8.4900
47	Mexico	11½	05/15/26	105.5000	10.9000
53	Venezuela par A	6¾	03/31/20	74.9000	9.0100
54	Venezuela	zero	12/18/07	87.0000	
68	Brazil S.ZI	6½	04/15/24	78.4010	8.2900
70	Italy	6⅞	09/27/23	93.7500	7.3300
71	Bulgaria	6 13/16	07/28/11	50.3750	13.2800
82	Brazil S.L.	6⅝	04/15/12	77.6980	8.4500
87	Mexico	7⅞	08/06/01	100.7500	7.5100
89	Mexico par A	6¼	12/31/19	72.7917	8.5900
90	Argentina L	6⅝	03/31/23	76.9510	8.2800
91	Mexico par B	6¼	12/31/19	72.7880	8.5900
99	Mexico D	6.352	12/28/19	87.3796	7.2700
100	Brazil par ZI	5	04/15/24	62.4760	8.0000
103	World Bank	5.68	09/27/99	97.2421	5.8400
111	Sallie Mae	4½	08/02/99	96.0000	4.6900
129	Argentina	5 1/16	04/01/01	123.7000	4.6000
131	EIB	zero	11/06/26	13.0000	7.0800
132	Bulgaria	6 13/16	07/28/24	55.8520	11.9700
133	Credit Lyonnais	6⅝	12/31/99	98.3800	6.7300
137	Ecuador par	3¼	02/28/25	45.6450	7.1200
139	Ecuador	3	02/28/15	62.8210	4.7800
140	Mydfa Trust	6 11/16	09/15/07	87.1600	7.6700
141	MBL Intl Fin	3	11/30/02	103.0000	2.9100
144	Brazil S.L.	6⅝	04/15/09	82.2500	7.9800
149	Russia	9¼	11/27/01	95.8750	9.6500
153	Mexico C	6⅝	12/31/19	87.3615	7.3000
155	Poland	4	10/27/14	83.5260	4.7900
157	Brazil Cbond S.L.	4½	04/15/14	82.6052	5.4500
159	Argentina	11	10/09/06	102.7500	10.7100
165	Mexico	9¾	02/06/01	103.0000	9.4700
170	Ferrovie Stato	9⅛	07/06/09	117⅞	7.7600
171	Poland	6½	10/27/24	97.5240	6.6700
172	Ontario	7¾	06/04/02	105.2500	7.3600
179	Mexico A	6.453	12/31/19	87.5260	7.3700
181	Mexico	11½	09/15/16	105.2500	10.8100
183	EIB	7⅛	09/18/06	102.6250	6.9400
195	Ontario	7⅜	01/27/03	103.2500	7.1400
204	Nigeria	6¼	11/15/20	67.3150	9.2800
205	Wachovia Bk	7	10/17/08	99.2500	7.0500
206	Italy A	6	01/10/01	98.3750	6.1000
207	Bank America	zero	01/29/97		
208	Argentina	8⅜	12/20/03	93.1250	8.9900
210	Argentina	6⅛	02/14/06	93.1250	6.8500
212	Panama	4	07/17/16	78.5000	5.1000
213	Argentina	9¼	02/23/01	100.5000	9.2000
214	Bk Nova Scotia	5.473	12/16/99	99.8100	5.4800
215	Venezuela	6⅞	03/31/07	89.1023	7.2200
217	Argentina	5.646	12/28/99	36.6750	15.3900
219	Canada	6½	05/30/00	101.0000	6.4400
222	Dean Witter	5 15/16	10/05/02	100.4600	5.9100
223	Associates	6¾	10/31/01	99.7500	6.7700
225	Bulgaria	2¼	07/28/12	37.6260	5.9800
226	Foreningsbken	6.335	12/16/03	99.2200	6.3800
227	Brazil	8⅞	11/05/01	99.6250	8.9100
230	Bay LB zent	6½	11/19/01	99.8750	6.5100
239	BOC Group	5⅞	01/29/01	97.2500	6.0400
241	Venezuela B	6¾	03/31/20	74.8125	9.0200
247	Natl Aust Bk	zero	04/07/97	98.7000	5.5100

The Week Ahead: World Economic Calendar, Jan. 13-17

A schedule of this week's economic and financial events, compiled for the International Herald Tribune by Bloomberg Business News.

	Asia-Pacific	Europe	Americas
Expected This Week	**Tokyo:** The government will set up a panel to discuss measures to cut Japan's deficit; Machine Tool Builders Association machine tool order figures for November.	**Geneva:** Trade Minister Shinji Sato of Japan meets with Renato Ruggiero, director-general of the World Trade Organization; The Japanese official also will meet with the European Union trade commissioner, Sir Leon Brittan, and Germany's economics minister, Guenter Rexrodt.	**Fayetteville, North Carolina:** Annual Pork Producers conference and trade show, Cumberland County Agriculture Expo Center. **New York:** National Retail Federation's annual convention and expo, Jacob Javits Convention Center.
Monday Jan. 13	**Tokyo:** Finance Ministry releases current account figures for November and merchandise trade figures for the first 20 days of December; Electronic Industry Association of Japan releases color TV and VCR shipment figures for November.	**Basel, Switzerland:** Hans Tietmeyer, president of the Bundesbank, leads monthly meeting of Group of 10 central bank governors.	**Ottawa:** Statistics Canada reports November building permits and November new motor vehicle sales. **Washington:** Agriculture Department releases its weekly report on planting progress for seven crops.
Tuesday Jan. 14	**Seoul:** Saehan Merchant Banking Corp. holds special meeting to appoint new directors. **Tokyo:** Real Estate Economy Research Institute releases Tokyo condominium sales for December.	**London:** British Retail Consortium publishes sales monitor figures for November. **Paris:** France's finance minister, Jean Arthuis, receives report from an informational committee on the banking system.	**Atlanta:** Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank releases its monthly survey of area manufacturers for December. **Washington:** Labor Department reports consumer price index for December; Commerce Department reports retail sales for December.
Wednesday Jan. 15	**Manila:** Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. lists an additional 50 million shares on the stock exchange. **Annual meetings:** Cosmos Bottling Corp., Planters Development Bank.	**Louvain, Belgium:** Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, speaks on the global economy at the University of Louvain.	**Mexico City:** Finance Ministry releases November industrial output. **Washington:** Commerce Department reports November business inventories and sales; Mortgage Bankers Association releases weekly mortgage applications.
Thursday Jan. 16	**Tokyo:** Bank of Japan releases bank lending and deposit data for December; Japan Iron and Steel Association releases data on steel production for December; Economic Planning Agency releases data on machine orders for November.	**London:** Kenneth Clarke, the chancellor of the Exchequer, holds monthly monetary policy meeting with Eddie George, the governor of the Bank of England.	**Philadelphia:** Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank releases its monthly survey of area manufacturers for January. **Washington:** Labor Department reports initial weekly state unemployment compensation claims.
Friday Jan. 17	**Tokyo:** Bank of Japan releases money supply figures for December; Economic Planning Agency releases household spending figures for November.	**Stockholm:** December unemployment figures. **Copenhagen:** October trade balance and current account.	**Ann Arbor, Michigan:** University of Michigan releases its index of consumer sentiment for January. **Washington:** Commerce Department reports trade deficit in goods and services for November.

New International Bond Issues

Compiled by Laurence Desvilettes

Issuer	Amount (millions)	Mat.	Coup. %	Price	Price end week	Terms
Floating Rate Notes						
Amsteel Finance Int'l	$100	2000	1.35	100.00	—	Over 6-month Libor. Noncallable. Fees not available. Denominations $100,000. (Peregrine Fixed Income.)
Bank of Nova Scotia	$250	1999	1/16	99.955	—	Below 3-month Libor. Noncallable. Fees 0.075%. Denominations $10,000. (UBS.)
Caisse Centrale de Credit Immobilier	$200	2000	1/16	100.045	—	Over 3-month Libor. Noncallable. Fees 0.125%. Denominations $10,000. (BNP Capital Markets.)
Christiania Bank	$150	1999	libor	100.01	—	Interest will be the 3-month Libor. Noncallable. Fees 0.10%. (Salomon Brothers Int'l.)
Corestates Capital 2	$150	2027	0.65	97.988	—	Over 3-month Libor. Noncallable. Fees 0.875%. (Lehman Brothers Int'l.)
First Maryland Capital	$150	2027	1	98.075	—	Over 3-month Libor. Noncallable. Fees 0.875%. (Lehman Brothers Int'l.)
National Bank of Canada	$300	2002	1/16	99.985	—	Over 3-month Libor. Noncallable. Fees 0.15%. Denominations $10,000. (Sanwa Int'l.)
Toronto-Dominion Australia	$150	1999	1/16	99.976	—	Below 3-month Libor. Noncallable. Fees 0.0625%. Denominations $10,000. (Banque Paribas Capital Markets.)
Bankers Trust Int'l	£200	2002	1/16	99.84	—	Over 3-month Libor. Noncallable. Fees 0.15%. (Bankers Trust Int'l.)
Lehman Brothers Holdings	£200	2002	⅜	99.682	—	Over 3-month Libor. Noncallable. Fees 0.375%. Denominations £100,000. (Lehman Brothers Int'l.)
Caisse Centrale de Credit Immobilier	DM500	2003	0.15	100.168	—	Over 3-month Libor. Noncallable. Fungible with outstanding issue, raising total amount to 1.25 trillion marks. Fees 0.30%. (HSBC Trinkaus.)
Fixed-Coupons						
Abbey National Treasury Services	$500	2000	6¼	100.965	99.46	Reoffered at 99.79. Noncallable. Fees 1⅛%. (SBC Warburg.)
Banque Generale du Luxembourg	$100	2001	6⅛	101.20	99.25	Reoffered at 99.80. Noncallable. Fees 1⅞%. (Banque Generale du Luxembourg.)
Banque Internationale a Luxembourg	$150	1999	6	100.755	99.35	Reoffered at 99.78. Noncallable. Fees 1⅛%. (Banque Nationale de Paris.)
Bayerische Hypotheken und Wechsel Bank	$200	2000	6⅛	101.135	99.27	Reoffered at 99.735. Noncallable. Fees 1⅛%. (Bear Stearns Int'l.)
Bayerische Vereinsbank	$200	2001	6¼	101.119	99.12	Reoffered at 99.719. Noncallable. Fees 1⅛%. (ABN-AMRO Hoare Govett.)
Beta Finance	$300	2002	6½	101.265	99.12	Reoffered at 99.64. Noncallable. Fees 1⅞%. (SBC Warburg.)
BNG	$250	2000	6⅛	101.0095	99.56	Reoffered at 99.822. Noncallable. Fees not available. (Nikko Europe.)
Denmark	$300	2002	zero	69.10	68.55	Yield 6.45%. Noncallable. Proceeds $207 million. Fees 0.20%. (PaineWebber Int'l.)
Depfa Finance	$200	2001	6⅛	101.481	99.24	Reoffered at 99.856. Noncallable. Fees 1⅞%. (Banque Nationale de Paris.)
Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.	$500	2007	6.70	99⅞	98.95	Noncallable. Fees 0.325%. (Nomura Int'l.)
Federal National Mortgage Association	$500	2002	6⅛	99.852	99.40	Semiannually. Noncallable. Fees 0.25%. Denominations $10,000. (Merrill Lynch Int'l.)
Halifax Building Society	$500	2002	6½	101.248	99.12	Noncallable. Fees 1⅞%. (HSBC Markets.)
Int'l Finance Corp. of Thailand	$200	2007	7⅛	99.624	—	Semiannually. Noncallable private placement. Fees not disclosed. (Merrill Lynch Int'l.)
L-Bank	$250	2001	6¼	101.15	99.30	Reoffered at 99¾. Noncallable. Fees 1⅞%. (Nikko Europe.)
Mexico	$1,000	2007	9⅞	100.00	99.70	Semiannually. Noncallable. Fees not available. (Merrill Lynch Int'l.)
Rabobank Nederland	$250	2001	6¼	101.341	99.62	Reoffered at 99.941. Noncallable. Fees 1⅞%. (Nikko Europe.)
SmithKline Beecham Capital	$200	2002	6⅝	99.884	99.20	Noncallable. Fees 0.275%. (Deutsche Morgan Grenfell.)
Sweden	$300	2000	6¼	101.26	99.42	Reoffered at 99.86. Noncallable. Fees 1⅛%. (Banque Paribas Capital Markets.)
Sweden	$700	2000	5.60	99.13	—	Noncallable. Fees 0.20%. (Yamaichi Int'l.)
BNG	DM250	2001	4⅞	101⅝	99.97	Reoffered at 100.10. Noncallable. Fees 1⅞%. (SBC Warburg.)
Deutsche Finance	DM500	2002	4⅞	101.545	100.03	Reoffered at 99.795. Noncallable. Fees 2%. (Deutsche Morgan Grenfell.)
DSL Finance	DM200	2002	5	101.84	100.31	Reoffered at 100.09. Noncallable. Fungible with outstanding issue, raising total amount to 450 million marks. Fees 2%. (CS First Boston.)
DSL Finance	DM1,000	2007	6	101.075	98.94	Reoffered at 98.90. Noncallable. Fees 2½%. (Deutsche Morgan Grenfell.)
European Investment Bank	DM500	2003	6	103.14	103.27	Noncallable. Fungible with outstanding issue, raising total amount to 1.25 trillion marks. Fees 0.30%. (Lehman Brothers Int'l.)
European Investment Bank	DM500	2026	zero	14.10	13.75	Yield 6.81%. Noncallable. Fungible with outstanding issue, raising total face amount to 1.5 billion marks. Fees 0.30%. (CS First Boston.)
General Electric Capital Corp.	DM300	2002	4⅞	101.59	100.10	Reoffered at 99.84. Noncallable. Fees 2%. (Banque Paribas Capital Markets.)
Rabobank Netherlands	DM500	2001	4¼	101.525	99.30	Reoffered at 99.60. Noncallable. Fees 2.15%. (Goldman Sachs Int'l.)
Sudwest LB Capital Markets	DM1,500	2002	4⅞	101.409	99.84	Reoffered at 99.659. Noncallable. Fees 2%. (SBC Warburg.)
World Bank	DM500	2016	zero	28.35	28.40	Reoffered at 28.15. Yield 6.59%. Noncallable. Proceeds 141 million marks. Fees 0.30%. (Banque Paribas Capital Markets.)
Abbey National Treasury Services	£250	2002	7⅝	99.198	—	Noncallable. Fungible with outstanding issue, raising total amount to £400 million. Fees 0.30%. (Merrill Lynch Int'l.)
Bayerische Vereinsbank	£100	2000	7¼	100.66	—	Reoffered at 99.485. Noncallable. Fees 1⅛%. (Hambros Bank.)
Commerzbank	£150	2002	7⅝	101⅜	—	Reoffered at 99¾. Noncallable. Fees 1⅞%. (Commerzbank.)
Deutsche Bank Finance	£150	1999	7¼	100.8855	—	Reoffered at 99.698. Noncallable. Fees 1⅛%. (Deutsche Morgan Grenfell.)
European Investment Bank	£500	2002	7¼	100.466	—	Reoffered at 98.841. Noncallable. Fees 1⅞%. (Barclays de Zoete Wedd.)
Export-Import Bank of Japan	£400	2007	8	101.439	—	Reoffered at 99.764. Noncallable. Fees 2%. (Barclays de Zoete Wedd.)
Finland	£150	2000	6.78	99.10	—	Semiannually. Noncallable private placement. Fees not disclosed. (Yamaichi Int'l.)
General Electric Capital Corp.	£125	2000	7¼	101.0305	—	Noncallable. Fees 1⅛%. (Barclays de Zoete Wedd.)
UBS London	£200	2007	8	98.68	—	Noncallable. Fungible with outstanding issue, raising total amount to £450 million. Fees 0.35%. (UBS.)
Royal Bank of Scotland	£150	2007	8⅜	99.21	—	Noncallable. Fees 0.40%. Denominations £100,000. (UBS.)
Sweden	£200	2002	7½	100.638	—	Reoffered at 99.013. Noncallable. Fees 1⅞%. (HSBC Capital Markets.)
Toyota Motor Finance	£200	2001	7½	101.304	—	Reoffered at 99.904. Noncallable. Fees 1⅛%. (SBC Warburg.)
WestLB Finance	£150	2007	8⅛	101.127	—	Reoffered at 99.477. Noncallable. Fees 2%. (Lehman Brothers Int'l.)
Whitbread	£100	2007	8¼	100.989	—	Reoffered at 99.364. Callable at par anytime. Fees 2%. (Barclays de Zoete Wedd.)
Baden-Wuerttemberg L-Finance	FF3,000	2009	6⅛	101.168	99.83	Reoffered at 99.518. Noncallable. Fees 2%. (Banque Nationale de Paris.)
DSL Finance	FF1,500	2002	5⅛	101.465	100.20	Reoffered at 99.84. Noncallable. Fees 1⅞%. (Banque Nationale de Paris.)
Abbey National Treasury Services	ITL300,000	2002	6.80	101.70	99.90	Noncallable. Fees 17.8%. (Credito Italiano.)
Bayerische Hypotheken und Wechsel Bank	ITL300,000	2002	6¾	101.583	99.75	Noncallable. Fees 1⅞%. (Banca Commerciale Italiana.)
Deutsche Finance	ITL2,000,000	2032	zero	7.80	8.12	Reoffered at 7.61. Yield 7.56%. Noncallable. Proceeds 155 billion lire. Fees 0.25%. (Deutsche Morgan Grenfell.)
Dresdner Finance	ITL400,000	2007	7¼	101.35	99.55	Noncallable. Fees 2%. (Banque Nationale de Paris.)
NordLB	ITL250,000	2002	6.70	101.525	99.70	Noncallable. Fees 1⅞%. (Cariplo.)
Achmea Hypotheekbank	DF200	2002	5	101.145	99.91	Reoffered at 99.57. Noncallable. Fees not disclosed. (ABN-AMRO Hoare Govett.)
Achmea Hypotheekbank	DF300	2007	6⅛	100.815	99.85	Reoffered at 99.24. Noncallable. Fees not disclosed. (ABN-AMRO Hoare Govett.)
Rabobank Nederland	DF350	2002	5	101.725	100.60	Reoffered at 100.10. Noncallable. Fees 1⅞%. (Rabobank Int'l.)
European Investment Bank	SP 36,125	2001	—	100.10	—	Issue split into 6 tranches, with coupons ranging from 4.30 to 4.50%. Redemption amount will be linked to the performance of the Ibex stock index. Noncallable. Fees 0.10%. (Banco Santander de Negocios.)
Abbey National Treasury Services	ECU100	2000	5	101.862	100.80	Reoffered at 100.487. Noncallable. Fees 1⅛%. (Banque Paribas Capital Markets.)
Kredietbank Int'l Finance	ECU15	2005	4	101.20	—	Interest will be 4% until 1999, 5% until 2001, 6⅛% until 2003, 9% thereafter. Noncallable. Fungible with outstanding issue, raising total amount to 70 million Ecus. Fees 2%. (Kredietbank.)
Int'l Finance Corp.	Y12,000	2000	4.85	100.00	—	Semiannually. Redemption at maturity will be in dollars. Noncallable. Fees 1.60%. (LTCB Int'l.)
Loan Participation Global Investment Company	Y10,000	2001	1.60	100.00	—	Noncallable private placement. Fees not disclosed. Denominations 100 million yen. (Tokyo-Mitsubishi Int'l.)
Mitsubishi Corp. Finance	Y50,000	1998	1½	101.74	—	Noncallable. Fees 0.125%. Denominations 100 million yen. (Daiwa Europe.)
Nippon Steel	Y10,000	2002	1.80	100.00	—	Semiannual interest will be 1.80% until 2000, thereafter 2.20. Noncallable. Fees 0.40%. Denominations 100 million yen. (Sanwa Int'l.)
Oesterreichische Kontrollbank	Y10,000	2000	4.70	100.00	—	Semiannually. Redemption at maturity will be in dollars. Noncallable private placement. Fees 1⅛%. (Citibank Int'l.)
Equity-Linked						
Volkswagen Int'l Finance	$250	2002	3	100.00	—	Semiannually. Callable at 102 in 1999. Convertible at $534.22 per share, a 22% premium, and at 1.5769 marks per dollar. Fees 2⅛%. Denominations $10,000. (UBS.)

Last Week's Markets

Stock Indexes

	Jan. 10	Jan. 3	% Ch'ge
United States			
DJ Indus.	6,703.79	6,544.09	+2.44
DJ Util.	236.30	231.48	+2.08
DJ Trans.	2,263.68	2,248.89	+0.66
S & P 100	744.94	729.99	+2.05
S & P 500	759.50	748.03	+1.53
S & P Ind	895.52	880.30	+1.73
NYSE Cp	400.76	394.06	+1.70
Nasdaq Cp	1,329.36	1,305.95	+1.78
Japan			
Nikkei 225	17,303.65	19,361.35	−10.64
Britain			
FTSE 100	4,056.60	4,089.50	−0.80
Canada			
TSE Indus.	5,984.93	5,919.49	+1.11
France			
CAC 40	2,327.50	2,282.76	+1.96
Germany			
DAX	2,933.39	2,859.28	+2.59
Hong Kong			
Hang Seng	13,191.50	13,222.79	−0.24
World			
MSCIP	817.48	814.04	+0.42

World Index from Morgan Stanley Capital Intl Perspective.

Money Rates

	Jan. 10	Jan. 3
United States		
Discount rate	5.00	5.00
Prime rate	8¼	8¼
Federal funds rate	5⅛	5.00
Japan		
Discount	0.50	0.50
Call money	0.41	0.42
3-month interbank	0.56	0.56
Britain		
Bank base rate	6.00	6.00
Call money	5⅞	6¼
3-month interbank	6⅛	6 5/16
France		
Intervention rate	3.15	3.15
Call money	3⅛	3¼
3-month interbank	3⅜	3⅜
Germany		
Lombard	4.50	4.50
Call money	3.12	3.12
3-month interbank	3.15	3.15

Gold	Jan. 10	Jan. 3	% Ch'ge
London p.m. fix $	358.25	364.00	−1.58

Euromarts

Eurobond Yields

	Jan. 10	Jan. 3	Yr high	Yr low
U.S. $, long term	6.66	6.53	6.66	6.53
U.S. $, mdm term	6.78	6.73	6.78	6.10
U.S. $, short term	6.04	6.01	6.06	6.01
Pounds sterling	7.61	7.53	7.62	7.51
French francs	4.97	4.87	4.98	4.87
Italian lire	7.22	7.23	7.24	7.22
Danish kroner	5.52	5.55	5.55	5.52
Swedish kronor	5.11	5.19	5.19	5.11
ECUs, long term	6.19	6.14	6.19	6.14
ECUs, mdm term	5.01	4.96	5.04	4.96
Can. $	6.06	5.80	6.08	5.80
Aus. $	7.29	7.25	7.31	7.25
N.Z. $	7.26	7.25	7.26	7.19
Yen	1.94	1.85	1.94	1.84

Source: Luxembourg stock exchange.

Weekly Sales

Jan. 9

	Cedel Bk $	Cedel Bk Nons	Euroclear $	Euroclear Nons
Primary Market				
Straights	—	434.3	—	284.0
Convert.	—	—	—	—
FRNs	74.5	51.6	53.0	49.8
ECP	14,909.2	10,554.9	11,775.8	9,795.0
Total	14,983.7	11,040.8	11,828.8	10,128.8
Secondary Market				
Straights	12,113.9	12,784.1	40,168.7	19,657.7
Convert.	397.7	533.5	1,958.1	1,418.4
FRNs	14,711.0	6,784.6	36,409.7	4,759.4
ECP	11,185.9	11,554.3	18,289.2	19,434.3
Total	38,408.5	31,656.5	94,465.7	45,469.8

Source: Euroclear, Cedel Bank.

Libor Rates

	1-month	3-month	6-month
U.S. $	5⅜	5⅝	5¾
Deutsche mark	3⅛	3¼	3⅜
Pound sterling	6⅛	6⅜	6⅝
French franc	3¼	3¼	3⅜
ECU	4⅛	4⅛	4⅛
Yen	½	½	½

Sources: Lloyds Bank, Reuters.

SHORT COVER

BA Weighs Sale of Stake in Unit

LONDON (Bloomberg) — British Airways PLC confirmed Sunday it had been "approached by a number of parties" interested in taking a stake in the British airline's engineering division.

General Electric Co. of the United States has made "tentative approaches" to BA, according to a British newspaper report, although no formal talks have yet taken place. An acquisition would put a value of about £600 million ($1.01 billion) on the business, the newspaper said. GE's manager of international communications, Jay Pomeroy, would not comment.

But a spokeswoman for British Airways confirmed talks concerning the sale of the division: "We've made no secret of the fact that we wish to explore third-party investment, with BA maintaining the majority of the shareholding. And we have been approached by a number of parties."

BA said last year it could eventually sell a minority stake in the unit as part of plans to cut £1 billion in costs over the next three years by sending more work to outside contractors.

SEC to Issue Rules on Prospectuses

WASHINGTON (Bloomberg) — The Securities and Exchange Commission is expected to issue a proposal Monday that would require key sections of company and mutual fund prospectuses to be written in plain English.

For two years, Arthur Levitt, chairman of the SEC, has been seeking to replace the tangled legal prose of many corporate documents with simpler, more intelligible language.

The proposal, which would be subject to public comment, would offer general guidelines, but no directive on precise wording, for the cover, summary and risk-factor pages of prospectuses, said Nancy Smith, the SEC's investor education and assistance director. Among the company prospectuses to be covered by the rules would be those for stock and bond offerings, mergers and limited partnerships, she said.

German Union Urges Job Creation

FRANKFURT (Reuters) — Germany's leading labor union renewed calls this weekend for job creation through reforms in working practices as reports of record unemployment gave fresh impetus to the country's jobs debate.

The union's message came after Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Party issued its second call in a week for a fresh jobs program involving the government, industry and unions. In a commentary in the Volksstimme am Sonntag newspaper, the deputy director of the German Federation of Trade Unions, Ursula Engelen-Kefer, urged companies to implement reforms that she said could create hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Cutting overtime hours by half would create 370,000 jobs, additional part-time work would create 460,000 and a switch to a 35-hour week would take 570,000 people off the jobless rolls, Ms. Engelen-Kefer said.

Foreign Investment in Taiwan Rises

TAIPEI (Bloomberg) — Overseas investors brought a record $2.74 billion of stock funds into Taiwan in 1996, the island's central bank said Sunday.

Most of the new foreign money entered during the first half of the year, when local stock investors pushed prices lower as military tensions between Beijing and Taipei escalated.

Foreign investors also were drawn by an easing of government restrictions on overseas purchases and by the island's inclusion in a group of closely-watched stock indexes.

For the Record

- Israel's trade deficit in 1996 reached $10.5 billion, 4 percent above the trade deficit in 1995.
- U.S. orders for machine tools dropped 22.8 percent in November, to an estimated $647 million, the Association for Manufacturing Technology and the American Machine Tool Distributor's Association said Sunday. *Bloomberg*

Euro Introduction Comes With a Big Price Tag

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — With few apparent hurdles remaining to European monetary union, banks and other companies are turning their attention to three daunting tasks at once: introducing a new currency in two years, preparing for what many believe will be a boom in cross-border business, and selling the benefits of the change to a skeptical European consumer.

The new currency will pose "real problems" for many companies, which will have to adapt not only their data processing programs, but in many cases their entire way of doing business, said Ulrich Schroeder, chief economist at Deutsche Bank AG in Frankfurt. The abolishing of exchange rates and currency transactions within the monetary zone will open wider horizons for many companies, but bring new competitive pressures for others.

"Up to now," Mr. Schroeder said, "many companies have been cautious about expanding because they never knew what next year's exchange rate would be. With monetary union, even small companies will have more confidence in exploring markets, knowing that they can rely on stable rates. This in turn will give consumers a wider choice of products."

The trade lobby EuroCommerce estimates that the conversion to the new currency will cost up to $33.5 billion, including the expense of rewriting computer programs.

Adding to the complexity of the operation is that banks, companies, retail and wholesale businesses and, not least, governments will have to deal in at least two values — the new euro and existing currencies — from Jan. 1, 1999, until the withdrawal of the national currencies in mid-2002.

"We are going to have big practical problems because of dual accounting and handling cash flows in two currencies," said Richard Desmond, group treasurer of BAT Industries PLC. But in the long run, he said, the single money "is going to be very useful to us."

The ending of transaction costs combined with instant settlement of accounts will save many large companies millions of dollars a year, he said.

Although the European Union agreed to move ahead to monetary union at the Dublin summit meeting in December, the countries joining the system will not be known until next year. They will be chosen on the basis of their economic performance this year, including their ability to hold public deficits to 3 percent or less of gross domestic product.

Once the membership is decided, governments will be hard-pressed to print, mint and store billions of bank notes and coins to be ready for the general introduction of the currency five years from now.

"For business, there are risks in starting preparations too early but there are greater risks still in delaying them," says the Association for the Monetary Union of Europe. "The changeover to the single currency should be viewed as a major project and handled as such."

It recommends that companies should start collecting information, set up a special euro unit, identify areas that will require change and devise a changeover strategy, including a calendar and a budget.

This goes for governments as well. France, which is determined to be one of the founding members of the monetary union, has just announced a plan to coordinate preparations under the chairmanship of the finance minister, Jean Arthuis.

The new currency will help businesses, but what about consumers?

One factor so far left out of the planning is what the E. Leclerc supermarket chain in France calls "the forgotten consumer." With the help of the European Commission, it listed prices in euros as well as French francs as an experiment last year, and printed 1.5 million euro bills — worth about 6.5 francs — that customers could spend in its stores.

Leclerc's conclusion that most customers were mystified — in fact, 70 percent of them elected to pay with bank cards.

Indeed, how useful the euro will be to the consumer remains an open question.

Euro notes and coins will not be introduced until 2002, but people will be able to open bank accounts and conduct financial dealings in euros starting in 1999.

Analysts say this is virtually certain to lead to more uniform banking policies across Europe.

The French Association of Banks, for example, says that France will probably have to come into line with the rest of Europe by introducing interest-bearing bank accounts, at the cost of eliminating the free banking services available at present.

And travelers, of course, would no longer have to change money, and pay the resulting commissions, when they cross borders.

Because it did not want to interfere in what it considers to be an area of national prerogative, the European Commission, the EU's executive body, has left the task of informing the public about the currency to governments and the financial services sector in each of the member countries.

But governments and banks have been primarily concerned with technicalities. They have allowed the initiative to slip to "Euroskeptics" who portray the new currency as a threat to national sovereignty and individual living standards.

"Europe is thus seen to be 'about' deflation, higher taxes, slashed programs and sour-faced bankers," said John Lloyd, a columnist in The Scotsman, one of the few British newspapers to support currency union.

Mr. Schroeder of Deutsche Bank said that banks will "obviously have to deal with a lot of propaganda" against the euro as they seek to win over their customers to the new currency.

This is a particular problem in Germany, where people believe that their investments will be less secure in euros than Deutsche marks.

But recently, he said, the powerful and independent Bundesbank has been sounding a tad more "Eurofriendly" as a result of a stability pact intended to ensure that countries stick to strict economic criteria.

European Commission officials still have little idea of how the new money will be accepted psychologically.

People tend to be deeply attached to their national currency as a symbol of political power and sovereignty, and are reluctant to change.

Although consumers are wary now, "many believe that once European Monetary Union is declared in the spring of 1988, the whole dynamic will change," said Stanley Crossick, chairman of the Belmont European Policy Center, a think tank in Brussels. "It is still rather nebulous. You cannot seriously promote the euro until a) you know it is going to happen for sure and b) you know which countries will be in it."

As Stocks Rise, Portfolio Planners Warn Against Greed

By Marcia Vickers
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — As investors perform the January rite of reviewing their portfolios for the new year, the market's 1996 gains and the resulting enthusiasm for stocks put a particular spin on the job.

Because stocks have risen so much — by 26 percent in 1996 — they occupy a larger percentage of investors' holdings than they did before 1996.

This process of allocating assets among the basic classes of investment — and regularly reviewing the allocation — is crucial to a portfolio's success, accounting for more than 90 percent of the differences in investors' returns, planners say.

Put another way, although investors may spend much time choosing between two different stocks, it is the broader decision of how much to apportion to stocks, bonds and cash that most powerfully affects returns.

"The asset-allocation plan for each individual will most likely differ according to age, income, financial goals, risk tolerance and other factors," said Joel Isaacson, a New York financial planner. Even for the same person, planners will differ on the allocation they consider appropriate.

"It's more an art than a science," Mr. Isaacson said.

But most analysts agree on certain generalizations. A single, 25-year-old investor with a long-term horizon would invest most of a portfolio in equities, with the balance in bonds and cash. A couple in their 30s with young children also would have much of their long-term money in stocks, though probably less than the 25-year-old. An older person about to retire might devote even less of a portfolio to equities.

Whatever the preferred percentages, the 1996 bull market has made many investors stock-heavy.

Bruce Bieber, a dentist in Plainview, New York, is a case in point.

INVESTING

He and his wife have two children.

In view of the family's income, college plans and other factors, the Biebers' financial planner, Lewis Altfest, prescribed an asset allocation plan that calls for 78 percent stocks, 17 percent bonds and 5 percent cash. But after the success of stocks last year, the Bieber portfolio now looks like this: 83 percent equities, 14 percent bonds and 3 percent cash.

The gains last year are not the only reason Mr. Altfest wants to lighten up on the stocks in Bieber's portfolio. Adding to the pressure is Mr. Altfest's overall view of stocks for 1997. "I think the U.S. stock market is at the high end," he said. "I want my clients who have a heavy equity exposure to be prepared for a possible correction."

Other analysts agree. "We think this year will be a moderately down year because we have had higher interest rates, declining earnings growth and very high price-earnings ratios," said David Shulman, equity strategist at Salomon Brothers Inc.

In December, he shifted his recommended portfolio from 50 percent stocks, 35 percent bonds and 15 percent cash to 45 percent equities, 35 percent bonds and 20 percent cash.

As investors review their asset allocations they must avoid several common mistakes. For example, while the recent bull market may make many investors overly enamored of stocks, a common error in the past has been the reverse: too much in bonds and cash.

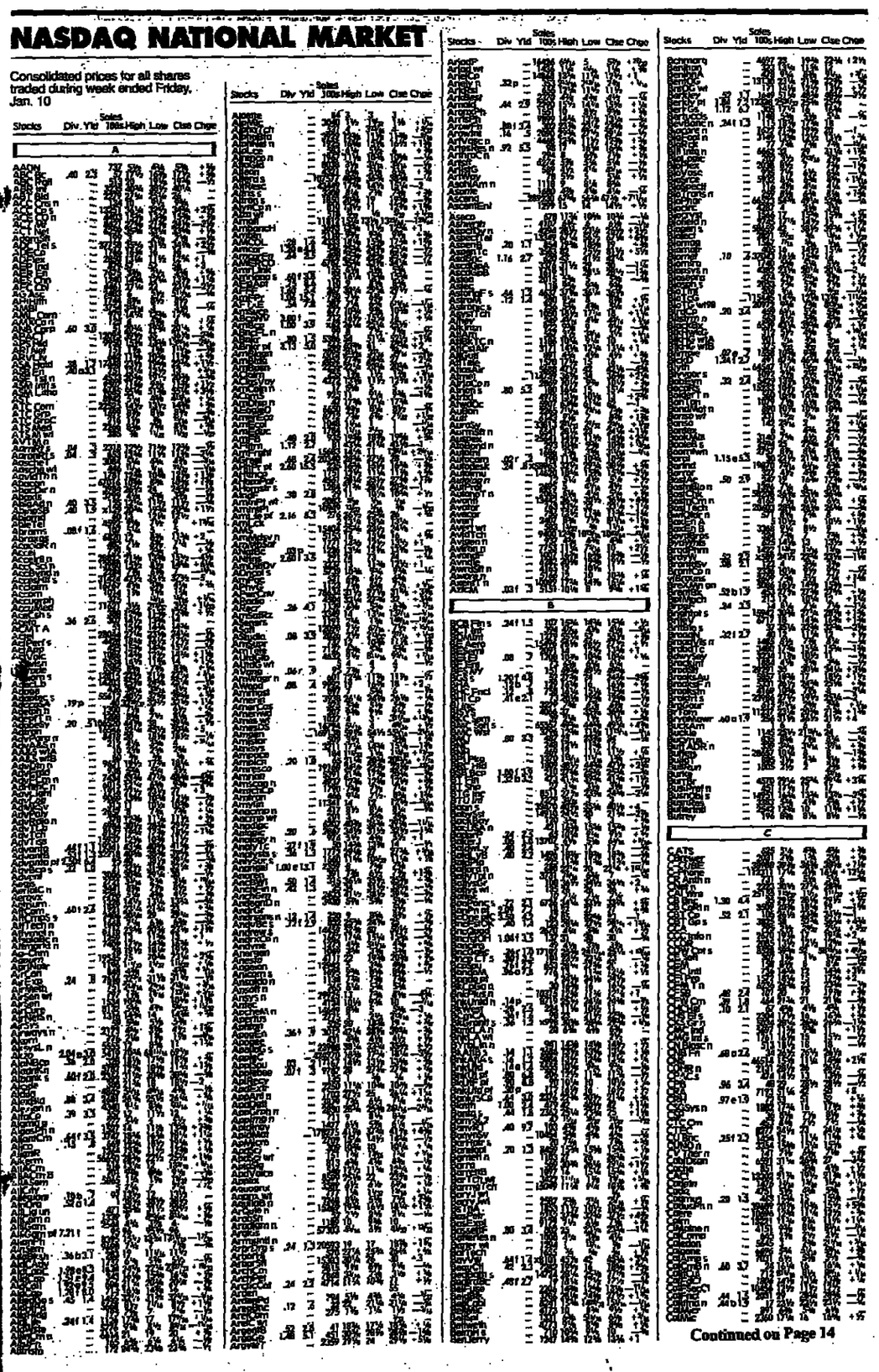
Moreover, many people may resist changing an asset allocation if it means reducing the portion of a portfolio that has done well recently.

Many investors instead want to increase that segment, but given that rapidly appreciating assets are often what puts an allocation plan off kilter, "that's usually the wrong approach," Mr. Isaacson said.

Finally, "I recommend that investors never sell to rebalance a portfolio," Mr. Markese said. "You only balance with new money. If investors can avoid selling by using cash flow from distributions, income or inheritances to rebalance a portfolio, in the long run they'll come out ahead."

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Consolidated prices for all shares traded during week ended Friday, Jan. 10



Continued on Page 14



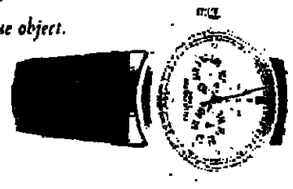
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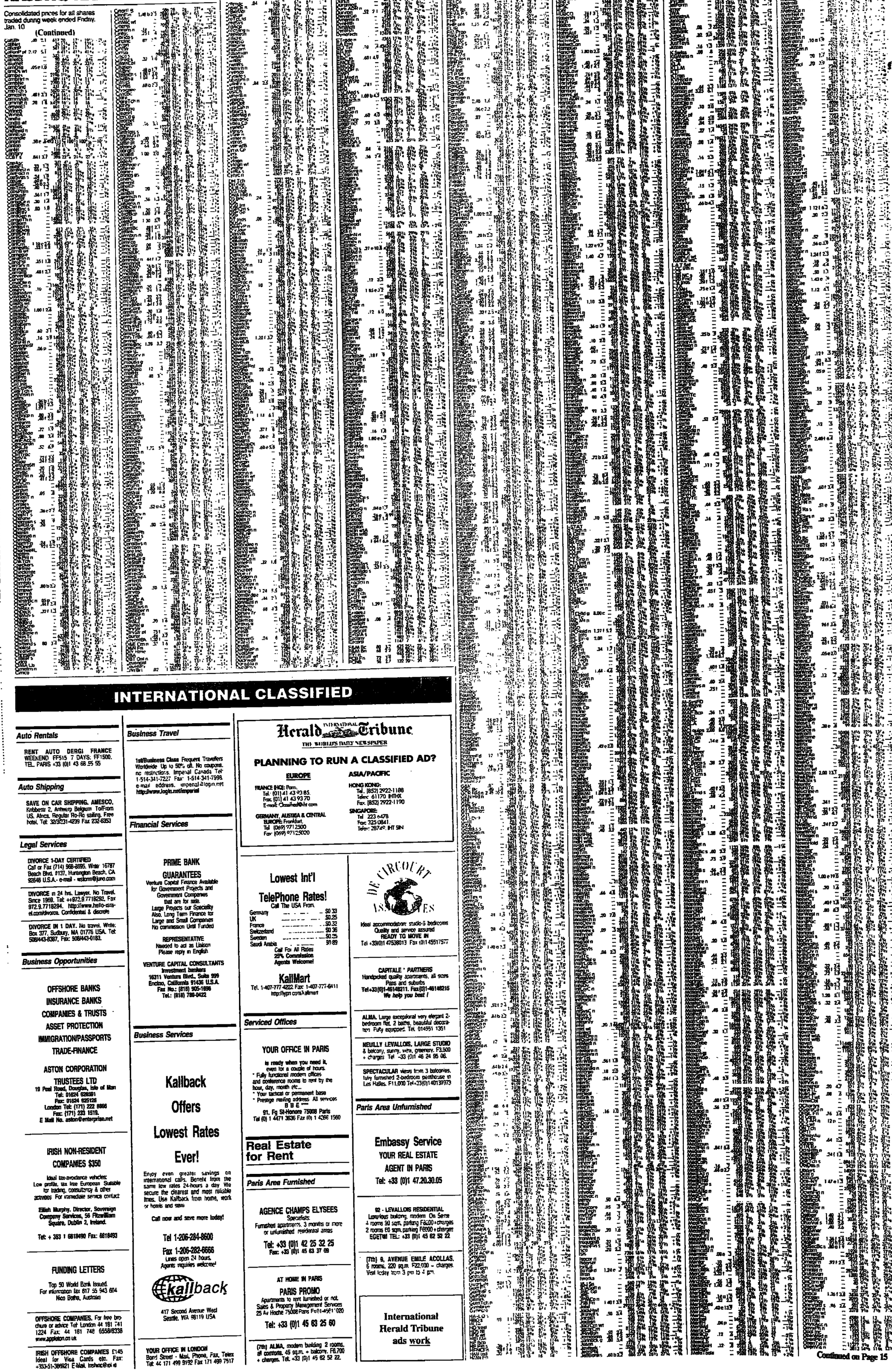
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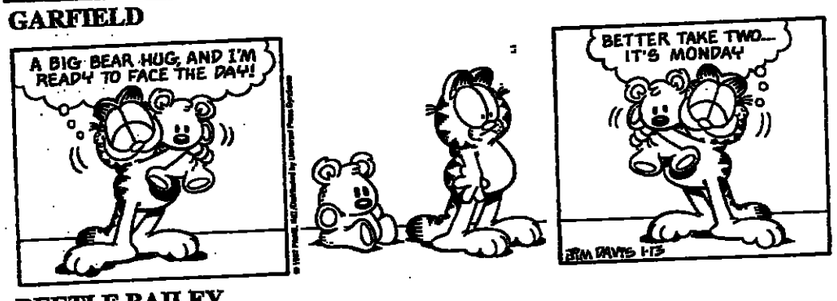
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Lucky Inter Closes In On Juventus

Manchester United Wins After Liverpool Falters

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

Inter Milan closed in on Juventus at the top of Italy's Serie A Sunday even though it did not play like a champion in its 2-1 victory over Napoli.

Goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca kept Inter in the match with a series of superb saves, allowing his side to sneak victory with opportunist goals by Marco Branca and Youri Djorkaeff.

Branca's snap shot in the 43d minute surprised Giuseppe Taglialatela, the Napoli goalkeeper. Two minutes from

SOCCER ROUNDUP

time, Djorkaeff turned his marker and shot past Taglialatela in one smooth movement.

It was the third time in successive away matches that Inter has taken points from a game they might have lost. Coach Roy Hodgson admitted: "We were lucky."

Napoli pulled a goal back through Nicola Caccia — a brilliant overhead kick — in the 90th minute.

Juventus was held 0-0 by Atalanta in Turin.

Juventus dominated the first half and Davide Pinato, the Atalanta goalkeeper, twice denied Alessandro Del Piero.

In the second half, Gianluigi Lentini hit the post for Atalanta.

Juve lost striker Alen Boksic with a leg injury. He will miss next Wednesday's European Supercup final first leg with Paris St. Germain in France.

Vicenza dropped after losing 1-0 to Milan. Arrigo Sacchi, the Milan coach, left Dejan Savicevic and Roberto Baggio on the bench and played Christophe Dugarry as a lone striker. The Frenchman headed in the only goal from Marco Simone's cross. Milan's Marcel Desailly was sent off in the second half.

ENGLAND David Beckham scored another spectacular goal Sunday as Manchester United beat Tottenham and move second in the Premier League.

Beckham, who trained with Tottenham as a schoolboy, had scored against Spurs in the F.A. Cup a week ago with a spectacular free kick.

Steffen Iversen and Andy Sinton both hit the United cross bar before the visitors took the lead in the 23d minute when Norwegian Ole Gunnar Solskjaer slid the ball home.



Plinio Lepri/The Associated Press

Francesco Totti of Roma trying to maneuver the ball away from Carmine Gautieri of Perugia. Roma won, 4-1.

Rory Allen headed an equalizer for Spurs in the 44th minute.

Beckham struck in the second half. He collected the ball just inside the Spurs half and strode forward before crashing a right-foot shot into the top corner of the goal from 25 meters.

The victory allowed Manchester United to make the most of the failings of other leading clubs the day before. None of the top eight teams which played on Saturday won.

Newcastle United showed just why Kevin Keegan's hair turned gray in four years before he quit as manager on Wednesday with a typical performance in a 2-2 draw with Aston Villa.

Newcastle raced into a 2-0 lead after only 21 minutes thanks to goals from Alan Shearer and Lee Clark — but then were lucky to escape with a point thanks to a penalty save by goalkeeper Shaka Hislop in the 61st minute. By then Villa had fought back with goals from Dwight Yorke and Savo Milosevic.

Leader Liverpool was held 0-0 at home by West Ham. Second-placed Arsenal lost 1-0 at Sunderland.

Arsenal's Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp was sent off for a dangerous tackle on Paul Bracewell. Tony Adams, the Arsenal captain, scored the only goal, deflecting a cross into his own net.

SPAIN Otto Konrad, the Zaragoza goalkeeper, let in a goal just 30 seconds into his Spanish league debut Sunday as his new team lost 5-1 to champions Atletico Madrid.

Real Madrid, the league leader, could only draw 0-0 away to Extremadura, the bottom club. Third-placed Deportivo Coruna missed a late penalty in an exciting 1-1 draw at Valladolid.

At Sevilla, Robert Prosinecki scored his second goal in the dying minutes to beat Oviedo and at Valencia, Jose Galvez scored the only goal of the game to beat Rayo Vallecano in the 90th minute.

PORTUGAL Champion Porto tightened its grip on this season's race with an efficient 2-1 victory over second-place Benfica before a crowd of 75,000 in the Stadium of Light in Lisbon on Saturday.

Goals from Brazilian striker Mario Jardel and defender Jorge Costa, one in each half, were enough to sink a disappointing Benfica which fell eight points behind Porto.

WORLD CUP Paraguay narrowed the gap on Colombia at the top of the South American qualifying group to three points Sunday with a 2-0 victory over Venezuela, which is bottom of the group. Miguel Angel Benitez shot Paraguay ahead in the fifth minute. Julio Enciso scored the second in the 62d minute.

In African qualifying Group 1, Nigeria was held to a draw by Kenya in Nairobi. Kenya took the lead in the 25th minute when Ken Simiyu who beat Nigerian goalkeeper Joseph Dosu with a header from after a corner.

Jonathan Akpoborie equalized for the Olympic champion in the 48th minute, also with a header from a corner.

Nigeria is seeded to reach the finals in France along with Zambia, Egypt, Cameroon and Morocco.

Morocco conceded two goals in the last five minutes and drew 2-2 in Kumasi, Ghana, in a Group 5 game which drew of 80,000. Basr Hadjim put Morocco ahead after 41 minutes, Hadji Mustapha doubled the lead with 10 minutes to play. Sam Johnson scored for Ghana with five minutes left and Emmanuel Osei Kuffuor equalized in the final minute.

Abu Kanu scored in the first minute of the second half to give Sierra Leone a 1-0 victory over Gabon in Group 5. Kanu saw goalkeeper Jacques Dekousshoud out of position and beat him with an angled lob.

South Africa, the African champion, drew 0-0 in Zambia in Group 3. In Group 2, Liberia, without George Weah, drew 0-0 with Namibia in Windhoek. *(Reuters, AP, AFP)*

Sykora Wins Easily; Wiberg Marches On

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

CHAMONIX, France — Thomas Sykora cruised Sunday to his third successive World Cup slalom victory.

While his rivals struggled on a piste hardened by the cold, Sykora mastered the conditions and finished 1.66 seconds ahead of Thomas Stangassinger.

Sykora, a tall, stylish Austrian, clocked an aggregate time of 1:56.38 seconds.

After the first leg, Sykora led Alberto Tomba by more than a second. Tomba, who was suffering from flu, then dropped out to leave Sykora with a lead of 1.17 seconds to take into the second leg.

"Everything was perfect today, starting with the snow," Sykora said. "It was man-made snow, and the Austrians train on that. Then I just had better feelings from the start, better than everyone."

Sykora has won four of the five slaloms this winter while finishing second in the other.

"I'm not getting tired of winning," Sykora said. "Every time is different. I've got no explanation for the form I'm in. It's just great."

Tomba decided after the first leg that he would be better off spending the rest of the day in bed and later withdrew from Tuesday's giant slalom in Adelboden, Switzerland.

Martin Hansson, a Swede, finished third. He earned the first podium place of his career with an aggregate time of 1:58.40, climbing from 15th with a fast second leg. Stangassinger, an Austrian, climbed from seventh to second in the second leg.

Sykora holds a comfortable lead of 200 points over Stangassinger in the slalom World Cup standings with four races remaining.

Michael von Gruenigen of Switzerland, a giant slalom specialist, came in fourth to take first place in the overall World Cup standings from Austria's Hans Knauss.

Knauss missed a gate in the second run of the slalom and was disqualified.

• In Bad Kleinkirchheim in Austria, Pernilla Wiberg of Sweden continued her domination of the women's World Cup circuit Sunday by recording her fourth victory of the season in a super-giant slalom.

Wiberg posted a time of 1:39.98 seconds on the hard and icy 2,000-meter (6,600-foot) Strohsack piste. Isolde Kostner, the Italian who is world super-G champion, was second in 1:40.26.

Wiberg increased her leading total in the overall standings to 863 points. She won the super-G in Lake Louise, Canada, in November and slaloms in Semmering, Austria, and Maribor, Slovenia.

Wiberg's closest rival in the overall race, Katja Seizinger of Germany, was third in 1:40.34 and remains second in the standings with 649 points.

"The weather was perfect today," said Wiberg. "The slope was hardened by the cold overnight temperatures. It was icy and that's just the way I like it."

"She risked the most," Seizinger said of Wiberg.

• Heidi Zurbriggen of Switzerland won the women's downhill in Bad Kleinkirchheim on Saturday. The race had been postponed on Friday.

Zurbriggen's winning time was 1:42.33 seconds.

Hilde Gerg of Germany finished second in 1:42.69 and Austria's Stefanie Schuster was third in 1:43.06, .01 second faster than a teammate, Renate Goetschl.

Wiberg was fifth in 1:43.10.

Zurbriggen's victory was the first for the Swiss women's team this season.

• In Chamonix, Kristian Ghedina of Italy won the men's downhill Saturday by the slimmest possible margin — .01 second.

The Italian skier was timed in 2:01.56 seconds, just ahead of Atle Skaardal of Norway.

Third, at 2:01.67, was Werner Franz of Austria. *(AP, Reuters)*



Agence France-Presse

Wiberg on her way to winning the women's Super-G Sunday.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	26	9	.743	—
Miami	25	10	.714	1
Washington	19	15	.559	6½
Orlando	12	18	.400	11½
New Jersey	9	23	.281	15½
Boston	8	25	.242	17
Philadelphia	8	26	.235	17½
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Chicago	31	4	.886	—
Detroit	26	8	.765	4½
Atlanta	21	11	.656	8½
Cleveland	21	13	.618	9½
Charlotte	18	16	.529	12½
Milwaukee	17	17	.500	13½
Indiana	16	17	.485	14
Toronto	12	22	.353	18½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

MIDWEST DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	27	9	.750	—
Utah	23	12	.657	3½
Minnesota	16	19	.457	10½
Dallas	12	20	.375	13
San Antonio	9	25	.265	17
Denver	9	26	.257	17½
Vancouver	7	29	.194	20
PACIFIC DIVISION				
L.A. Lakers	27	10	.730	—
Seattle	26	11	.703	1
Portland	19	16	.543	7
Sacramento	15	21	.417	11½
L.A. Clippers	14	21	.400	12
Golden State	13	20	.394	12
Phoenix	11	24	.314	15

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

New York 111, Boston 98
Houston 120, Philadelphia 99
Washington 102, L.A. Clippers 98
Detroit 84, San Antonio 78
Chicago 116, Milwaukee 101
Indiana 108, Denver 89
Phoenix 102, Charlotte 90
L.A. Lakers 94, Miami 85

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Utah 19 11 25 22— 77
Detroit 27 16 27 17—87
U: Malone 6-13 7-9 19, Hornacek 7-12 2-2 16; D: Hill 6-9 7-11 19, Hunter 5-18 6-8 19. Rebounds—Utah 41 (Ostertag 10), Detroit 48 (Hill, Thorpe 11). Assists—Utah 25 (Stockton 10), Detroit 19 (Hill 7).

Washington 31 27 25 15— 98
Cleveland 23 16 31 15— 85
W: Strickland 8-14 3-3 20, Howard 8-19 2-2 18; C: Brandon 7-22 4-4 19, Hill 6-9 4-8 16. Rebounds—Washington 46 (Howard 10), Cleveland 43 (Hill 7). Assists—Washington 28 (Webber, Strickland 8), Cleveland 18 (Brandon 9).

San Antonio 17 25 15 20 5— 82
Atlanta 17 23 14 23 10— 87
S.A.: Johnson 9-19 3-4 21, Perdue 9-12 1-3 19; A: Laettner 10-17 5-5 26, Mutombo 4-8 7-11 15, Smith 5-10 4-6 15, Blaylock 6-14 0-0 15. Rebounds—San Antonio 54 (Perdue 17), Atlanta 60 (Mutombo 20). Assists—San Antonio 19 (Johnson 5), Atlanta 14 (Blaylock 5).

Toronto 48 31 21 23—123
New Jersey 17 30 29 30—106
T: W.Williams 9-18 7-9 28, Stoudamire 9-19 4-4 28; N.J.: Gill 10-17 8-8 30, Kittles 6-17 3-4 15. Rebounds—Toronto 53 (Jones, Camby 9), New Jersey 56 (J.Williams 11). Assists—Toronto 25 (Christie, Stoudamire 9), New Jersey 27 (Pack 15).

L.A. Clippers 26 27 17 23— 93
Minnesota 20 21 25 29— 95
L.A.: Martin 7-14 1-1 19, Rogers 6-20 3-6 15, Wright 7-9 0-0 15; M: Gugliotta 11-28 6-11 28, Marbury 7-14 4-5 20. Rebounds—Los Angeles 57 (Wright 15), Minnesota 43 (Garnett 9). Assists—Los Angeles 14 (Martin 5), Minnesota 22 (Gugliotta 7).

Boston 26 24 20 29— 99
New York 27 33 20 32—112
B: Walker 9-13 5-7 23, Minor 5-13 4-4 15; N.Y.: Ewing 10-13 10-12 30, Starks 8-14 1-3 20. Rebounds—Boston 44 (Walker 9), New York 58 (Oakley, Ewing 12). Assists—Boston 20 (Wesley 8), New York 32 (Childs 8).

Denver 18 35 27 19— 99
Dallas 23 29 21 31—104
D: L.Ellis 11-19 5-7 28, D.Ellis 7-13 2-2 18; D: Gatling 7-12 7-10 21, McCloud 6-9 7-8 21. Rebounds—Denver 49 (Hammonds, D.Ellis, L.Ellis 6), Dallas 45 (Green 9). Assists—Denver 23 (Jackson 23), Dallas 18 (Harper 8).

Houston 23 20 23 20—86
Chicago 20 20 34 36—110
H: Olajuwon 12-25 4-5 29, Elie 0-2 9-9 9, Maloney 3-7 0-0 9, Livingston 3-6 3-4 9; C: Jordan 12-25 4-4 32, Kukoc 8-13 0-0 20. Rebounds—Houston 44 (Olajuwon 8), Chicago 59 (Rodman 18). Assists—Houston 20 (Drexler 5), Chicago 29 (Jordan, Pippen 7).

Indiana 20 19 24 19—82
Seattle 25 31 16 20— 92
I: Smits 9-16 2-4 20, A.Davis 8-14 1-1 17; S: Hawkins 9-12 0-0 19, Schrempf 8-15 0-0 18. Rebounds—Indiana 52 (Smits 13), Seattle 46 (Schrempf 8). Assists—Indiana 15 (McKey 5), Seattle 23 (Schrempf 12).

Sacramento 24 32 25 28—109
Vancouver 33 23 23 22—101
S: Richmond 11-17 7-8 32, Abdul-Rauf 10-14 4-5 27; V: Abdur-Rahim 14-24 9-11 37, Reeves 14-25 2-5 30. Rebounds—Sacramento 57 (Smith 11), Vancouver 42 (Reeves 10). Assists—Sacramento 29 (Richmond 13), Vancouver 25 (Mayberry 9).

FOOTBALL

COLLEGE BOWL GAMES
EAST-WEST SHRINE CLASSIC
SATURDAY, AT STANFORD, CALIF.
East 17, West 13

HOCKEY

NHL Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	26	13	5	57	144	109
Florida	22	11	9	53	124	96
N.Y. Rangers	22	18	6	50	156	128
New Jersey	21	15	5	47	109	105
Washington	18	20	5	41	114	113
Tampa Bay	16	20	6	38	124	135
N.Y. Islanders	12	21	9	33	108	127
NORTHEAST DIVISION						
Pittsburgh	23	15	5	51	161	135
Buffalo	21	17	5	47	127	118
Montreal	17	19	8	42	146	152
Hartford	17	18	7	41	127	139
Boston	16	20	6	38	124	153
Ottawa	12	21	8	32	110	124

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	24	16	3	51	127	107
Detroit	21	15	7	49	134	98
Phoenix	19	20	4	42	118	138
St. Louis	19	22	4	42	127	146
Chicago	17	21	8	42	121	125
Toronto	17	26	0	34	130	153
PACIFIC DIVISION						
Colorado	26	10	8	60	150	101
Edmonton	19	21	4	42	143	135
Vancouver	20	20	1	41	131	139
Anaheim	16	21	5	37	121	130
Calgary	16	23	5	37	110	130
Los Angeles	16	23	4	36	118	144
San Jose	15	22	5	35	107	131

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

Pittsburgh 5, N.Y. Islanders 2
Chicago 3, New Jersey 3, tie
Phoenix 4, Dallas 3
Vancouver 5, Hartford 3
Anaheim 5, Buffalo 2

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Chicago 1 1 1—3
Detroit 0 0 1—1
First Period: C-Black 9 (Shantz, Amonte) Second Period: C-Probert 5 (Craven, Black) (pp). Third Period: C-Amonte 28 (Craven, Weinrich) 4, D-Shanahan 24 (Yzerman) (pp). Shots on goal: C- 6-9-4—19. D- 11-7-15—33. Goalies: C-Belfour. D-Osgood.

Washington 0 3 0 0—3
Philadelphia 1 0 2 0—3
First Period: P-LeClair 26 (Lindros, Niinimaa) (pp). Second Period: W-Bondra 25 (Housley) 3, W-Juneau 11 (Hunter, Cole) (pp). 4, W-, Cote 2 (Konowalchuk, Housley) (pp). Third Period: P-Druce 4 (Niinimaa, Brind'Amour) 6, P-Brind'Amour 15 (Desjardins, LeClair) Overtime: None. Shots on goal: W- 11-10-6-4—31. P- 10-8-10-2—30. Goalies: W-Kolzig, P-Snow.

San Jose 0 1 1—2
Edmonton 0 1 0—1
First Period: None. Second Period: E-Satan 14 (Norton, Weight) (pp). 2, S.J.-Iafrate 6 (Nichols, Kozlov) Third Period: S.J.-Kroupa 2 (Gill, Friesen) (pp). Shots on goal: S.J.- 11-16-9—36. E- 6-8-8—22. Goalies: S.J.-Hrudey, E-Joseph.

N.Y. Islanders 2 2 0 0—4
Tampa Bay 1 1 2 0—4
First Period: New York, Palffy 25 (Smolinski, Anderson) 2, New York, King 13 (McInnis, Green) 3, T-Zamuner 9 (penalty shot) Second Period: New York, Hughes 4, 5, T-, Anderson 3 (Cross) 6, New York, Green 9 (McInnis, Palffy) (pp). Third Period: T-Cullen 11 (Ysebaert, Ciccarelli) 8, T-Ulanov 1 (Bannister, Gratton) Overtime: None. Shots on goal: New York 9-9-6-2—26. T- 10-13-10-3—36. Goalies: New York, Salo. T-Tabaracci.

Pittsburgh 1 0 2 0—3
Ottawa 1 1 1 0—3
First Period: P-Nedved 20, 2, O-, Alfredsson 15 (York, Yashin) Second Period: O-Yashin 18 (Alfredsson) (pp). Third Period: P-Sandstrom 8 (Woolley, Lemieux) (pp). 5, O-Duchesne 6 (Yashin, Alfredsson) 6, P-Barnes 10 (Hicks, Dziedzic) Overtime: None. Shots on goal: P- 7-4-8-1—20. O- 12-9-13-0—34. Goalies: P-Lalime. O-Rhodes.

Colorado 1 0 2—3
Toronto 0 1 1—2
First Period: C-Jones 16 (Deadmarsh, Young) (pp). Second Period: T-Muller 12 (Murphy, Nedved) (pp). Third Period: C-Ozolinsh 14 (Lemieux, Klemm) (pp). 4, T-Warriner 9 (Murphy, Potvin) 5, C-Deadmarsh 17 (Ozolinsh) Shots on goal: C- 9-9-12—30. T- 11-19-9—39. Goalies: C-Roy, T-Potvin.

Boston 1 2 0—3
Montreal 0 4 2—6
First Period: B-Bourque 5 (Stumpel, Oates) (pp). Second Period: B-Oates 13 (Donato, McLaren). 3, M-Thornton 7 (Quintal, Tucker) 4, M-Recchi 20 (Rivet, Damphousse) 5, M-Brunet 6 (Richer, Bordeleau) 6, M-Richer 14 (Bordeleau, Brunet) 7, B-Bourque 6 (Oates, Stumpel) (pp). Third Period: M-Baron 1 (Bordeleau, Richer) 9, M-Recchi 21 (Savage, Damphousse) (en). Shots on goal: B- 9-7-14—30. M- 4-10-9—23. Goalies: B-Tallas, Chevaldae; M-Jablonski.

St. Louis 0 1 0—1
Los Angeles 1 0 1—2
First Period: L.A.-Stevens 7 (Boucher, Olczyk) (pp). Second Period: S.L.-Hull 21 (Courtnall, Turgeon) (pp). Third Period: L.A.-Khristich 12 (Tsyplakov, Nurminen) Shots on goal: S.L.- 11-12-5—28. L.A.- 8-6-7—21. Goalies: S.L.-Fuhr. L.A.-Dafoe.

Florida 2 1 1—4
Calgary 1 0 0—1
First Period: F-Fitzgerald 7 (Lowry, Svehla) 2, F-Sheppard 18 (Laus, Garpenlov) 3, C-Gavey 2 (McTavish, Hlushko) Second Period: F-Dvorak 10 (Sheppard, Garpenlov) Third Period: F-Lindsay 9 (Dvorak) (en). Shots on goal: F- 13-13-12—38. C- 18-9-14—41. Goalies: F-Vanbiesbrouck. C-Roloson.

CRICKET

WORLD SERIES CUP LIMITED OVERS
WEST INDIES VS. AUSTRALIA
SUNDAY, IN PERTH, AUSTRALIA
Australia: 267-7 in 50 overs
West Indies: 269-6 in 49.2
West Indies won by four wickets.
Standings: West Indies 10 points, Pakistan 6, Australia 4.

INDIA TOUR
2N DAY OF 3-DAY MATCH
FREE STATE VS. INDIA
SUNDAY, IN BLOEMFONTEIN, SOUTH AFRICA
Free State first innings: 320-7 declared
second innings: 69-0
India first innings: 296-6 declared.

RUGBY UNION

UNITED STATES TOUR
WALES VS. UNITED STATES
SATURDAY, IN CARDIFF
Wales 34, United States 14

SKIING

WORLD CUP

WOMEN'S SUPER-G
SUNDAY, IN BAD KLEINKIRCHHEIM, AUSTRIA
1. Pernilla Wiberg (Sweden) 1 minute 39.98 seconds, 2. Isolde Kostner (Italy) 1:40.26, 3. Katja Seizinger (Germany) 1:40.34, 4. Hilde Gerg (Germany) 1:40.50, 5. Martina Ertl (Germany) 1:40.97, 6. Katharina Gutensohn (Germany) 1:41.07, 7. Regina Haeusl (Germany) 1:41.20, 8. Alexandra Meissnitzer (Austria) 1:41.26, 9. Heidi Zurbriggen (Switzerland) 1:41.27, 10. Catherine Borghi (Switzerland) 1:41.68.

Super G standings: 1. Wiberg 309 points, 2. Gerg 280, 3. Seizinger 214, 4. Kostner 205, 5. Zelenskaya 152, 6. Ertl 146, 7. Masnada 131, 8. Svetlana Gladishiva (Russia) 130, 9. Montillet 120, 10. Zurbriggen 99.

Overall standings: 1. Pernilla Wiberg (Sweden) 863 points, 2. Katja Seizinger (Germany) 649, 3. Hilde Gerg (Germany) 583, 4. Deborah Compagnoni (Italy) 395, 5. Anita Wachter (Austria) 365, 6. Urska Hrovat (Slovenia) 359, 7. Isolde Kostner (Italy) 346, 8. Martina Ertl (Germany) 340, 9. Heidi Zurbriggen (Switzerland) 304, 10. Claudia Riegler (New Zealand) 289.

MEN'S SLALOM
SUNDAY, IN CHAMONIX, FRANCE
1. Thomas Sykora (Austria) 1 minute 56.38 seconds (first leg 57.58 seconds/second leg 58.80). 2. Thomas Stangassinger (Austria) 1:58.04 (59.10/58.94), 3. Martin Hansson (Sweden) 1:58.40 (59.72/58.68), 4. Michael von Gruenigen (Switzerland) 1:58.49 (59.00/59.49), 5. Ole Christian Furuseth (Norway) 1:58.51 (59.10/59.41), 6. Kiminobu Kimura (Japan) 1:58.53 (59.28/59.25), 7. Andrea Zinsli (Switzerland) 1:58.54 (59.83/58.71), 8. Tom Stiansen (Norway) 1:58.63 (58.76/59.87), tie Sebastien Amiez (France) 1:58.63 (58.76/59.87), 10. Alois Vogl (Germany) 1:58.67 (1:00.34/58.33).

Slalom standings: 1. Sykora 480 points, 2. Stangassinger 280, 3. Amiez 208, 4. Sitansen 178, 5. Aamodt 152, 6. Kiminobu Kimura (Japan) 149, 7. Vogireiter 148
8. Martin Hansson (Sweden) 128, 9. Von Gruenigen 117, 10. Alberto Tomba (Italy) 112.

MEN'S DOWNHILL
SATURDAY, IN CHAMONIX, FRANCE
1. Kristian Ghedina (Italy) two minutes 01.56 seconds, 2. Atle Skaardal (Norway) 2:01.57, 3. Werner Franz (Austria) 2:01.67, 4. William Besse (Switzerland) 2:01.94, 5. Luc Alphand (France) 2:02.03, 6. Josef Strobl (Austria) 2:02.36, 7. Bruno Kernen (Switzerland) 2:02.33, 8. Markus Herrmann (Switzerland) 2:02.45, 9. Hannes Trinkl (Austria) 2:02.59, 10. Werner Perathoner (Italy) 2:02.68.

Downhill standings: 1. Ghedina 366 points, tie Alphand 365, 3. Skaardal 261, 4. Franz 228, 5. Josef Strobl 203, 6. Fritz Strobl 194, 7. William Besse (Switzerland) 172, 8. Pietro Vitalini (Italy) 133, 9. Franco Cavegn (Switzerland) 121, 10. Adrien Duvillard (France) 119.

Combined results (Downhill and slalom times together):
1. Guenther Mader, Austria 4:02.73 (2:02.90 - 1:59.83), 2. Kjetil-Andre Aamodt, Norway 4:03.91 (2:03.21 - 2:00.70), 3. Bruno Kernen, Switzerland 4:05.98 (2:02.33-2:03.65), 4. Finn Christian Jagge, Norway 4:06.24 (2:07.15 - 1:59.09), 5. Paul Accola, Switzerland 4:07.58 (2:04.88 - 2:02.73), 6. Fredrik Nyberg, Sweden 4:08.63 (2:05.17 - 2:03.46), 7. Kristian Ghedina, Italy 4:09.43 (2:01.56 - 2:07.87), 8. Andreas Schifferer, Austria 4:10.36 (2:02.99 - 2:07.37), 9. Werner Franz, Austria 4:11.62 (2:01.67 - 2:09.95), 10. Ales Brezavsek, Slovenia 4:13.79 (2:06.34 - 2:07.45).

Overall standings: 1. Michael Von Gruenigen (Swi) 497 points, 2. Thomas Sykora (Aut) 482, 3. Hans Knauss (Aut) 468, 4. Kjetil Andre Aamodt (Nor) 451, 5. Kristian Ghedina (Ita) 415, 6. Luc Alphand (Fra) 397, 7. Guenther Mader (Aut) 361, 8. Josef Strobl (Aut) 332, 9. Steve Locher (Swi) 307, 10. Siegfried Voglreiter (Aut) 303.

SOCCER

WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS
AFRICAN ZONE
GROUP ONE
Kenya 1, Nigeria 1
Burkina Faso 0, Guinea 2
Standings: Guinea 6 points, Nigeria 4, Kenya 1, Burkina Faso 0.

GROUP TWO
Namibia 0, Liberia 0
Tunisia 1 Egypt 0
Standings: Tunisia 6 points, Egypt 3, Liberia 1, Namibia 1.

GROUP THREE
Zambia 0, South Africa 0
Zaire 1, Congo 1
Standings: Congo 4 points, South Africa 4, Zaire 1, Zambia 1.

GROUP FOUR
Cameroon 0, Angola 0
Zimbabwe 3, Togo 0
Standings: Cameroon 4 points, Angola 4, Zimbabwe 3, Togo 0.

GROUP FIVE
Sierra Leone 1, Gabon 0
Ghana 2, Morocco 2
Standings: Morocco 4 points, Sierra Leone 3, Ghana 2, Gabon 1.

SOUTH AMERICAN ZONE
Venezuela 0, Paraguay 2
Bolivia 2, Ecuador 0

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY
Lebanon 2, Algeria 2

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE
Aston Villa 2, Newcastle 2
Blackburn 4, Coventry 0
Leeds 3, Leicester 0
Liverpool 0, West Ham 0
Middlesbrough 0, Southampton 1
Nottingham Forest 2, Chelsea 0
Sheffield Wednesday 2, Everton 1
Sunderland 1, Arsenal 0
Wimbledon 1, Derby 1,
Tottenham 1, Manchester United 2
Standings: 1. Liverpool 43 points, 2. Manchester United 41, 3. Arsenal 40, 4. Newcastle 38, 5. Wimbledon 38, 6. Aston Villa 36, 7. Chelsea 35, 8. Sheffield Wednesday 31, 9. Everton 28, 11. Tottenham 28, 11. Sunderland 27, 12. Leeds 25, 13. Derby 24, 14. Blackburn 23, 15. Coventry 23, 16. Leicester 23, 17. West Ham 22, 18. Nottingham Forest 20, 19. Southampton 19, 20. Middlesbrough 18.

SPANISH FIRST DIVISION
Extremadura 0, Real Madrid 0
Tenerife 0, Real Sociedad 1
Athletic Bilbao 2, Celta Vigo 2
Valladolid 1, Deportivo Coruna 1
Valencia 1, Rayo Vallecano 0
Sevilla 2, Oviedo 1
Logrones 1, Espanyol 0
Compostela 1, Racing Santander 1
Atletico Madrid 5, Zaragoza 1
Standings: 1. Real Madrid 43 points, 2. Barcelona 40, 3. Deportivo Coruna 38, 4. Real Betis 36, 5. Atletico Madrid 35, 6. Real Sociedad 34, 7. Valladolid 30, 8. Tenerife 28, 9. Athletic Bilbao 28, 10. Valencia 27, 11. Racing Santander 26, 12. Celta Vigo 24, 13. Rayo Vallecano 23, 14. Oviedo 22, 15. Compostela 20, 16. Espanyol 19, 17. Sporting Gijon 18, 18. Logrones 18, 19. Sevilla 17, 20. Zaragoza 14, 21. Hercules 12, 22. Extremadura 9.

ITALIAN FIRST DIVISION
Bologna 0, Parma 1
Juventus 0, Atalanta 0
Milan 1, Vicenza 0
Napoli 1, Inter 2
Piacenza 0, Udinese 0
Reggiana 0, Fiorentina 0
Roma 4, Perugia 1
Verona 1, Lazio 1
Sampdoria 4, Cagliari 1
Standings: 1. Juventus 30 points, 2. Sampdoria 28, 3 Inter 28, 4. Vicenza 26, 5. Fiorentina 25, 6. Milan 24, 7. Parma 24, 8. Lazio 23, 9. Roma 23, 10. Napoli 23, 11. Bologna 22, 12. Atalanta 21, 13. Udinese 19, 14. Piacenza 18, 15. Perugia 17, 16. Cagliari 14, 17. Verona 11, 18. Reggiana 10.

TENNIS

SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S FINAL
Martina Hingis (2), Switzerland, def. Jennifer Capriati, United States, 6-1, 5-7, 6-1.
MEN'S FINAL
Tim Henman, Britain, def. Carlos Moya, Spain, 6-3, 6-1.

TASMANIAN INTERNATIONAL
HOBART, A
FINAL
Dominique Van Roost, Belgium, def. Marianne Werdel-Witmeyer, United States, 6-3, 6-3.

BELLSOUTH OPEN
AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND
QUARTERFINALS
Jonas Bjorkman, Sweden, def. Jan-Michael Gambill, U.S., 6-4 6-0; Marcos Ondruska, South Africa, def. Marcelo Rios (1), Chile, 0-6 6-3 6-3; Jiri Novak, Czech Rep, def. Alex Radulescu, Germany, 6-1 6-4, Kenneth Carlsen, Denmark, def. Hernan Gumy (5), Argentina 6-4 7-6 (7-5).
SEMIFINALS
Jonas Bjorkman, Sweden, def. Marcos Ondruska, South Africa, 6-1 6-1; Kenneth Carlsen, Denmark def. Jiri Novak, Czech Rep 7-6 (7-5) 6-4.

TRANSITIONS

BASEBALL
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL
AMERICAN LEAGUE
ANAHEIM—Agreed to terms with RHP Shigetoshi Hasegawa on 1-year contract.
BOSTON—Signed LHP Steve Avery to 1-year contract.
CHICAGO—Agreed to terms with OF Harold Baines and RHP Jason Bere on 1-year contract, and RHP Roger McDowell and C Tony Pena on minor-league contracts.
BALTIMORE—Acquired C Leroy McKinnis from San Diego Padres for OF Mark Smith.
DETROIT—Agreed to terms with C Brian Johnson on 1 one-year contract.
NEW YORK—Agreed to terms with OF Mark Whiten and INF Luis Sojo on 1-year contracts.
OAKLAND—Agreed to terms with RHP Brad Rigby, RHP Aaron Small, LHP Matt Dunbar, LHP Matt Dunbar, INF Steve Cox and INF Jason McDonald on 1-year contracts.
TEXAS—Agreed to terms with LHP Darren Oliver on 1-year contract.
NATIONAL LEAGUE
LOS ANGELES—Agreed to terms with RHP Darren Hall on 1-year contract.
ST. LOUIS—Agreed to terms with C Tom Lampkin on 1-year contract.
SAN FRANCISCO—Agreed to terms with OF Darryl Hamilton on 2-year contract. Re-signed Ted Robinson, broadcaster, to 2-year contract.
BASKETBALL
NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION
LOS ANGELES—Traded F Cedric Ceballos and G Rumeal Robinson to the Phoenix Suns for F Robert Horry and C Joe Kleine.

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY, JAN. 13

TENNIS, Melbourne, Australia — tennis, men, women. ITF, ATP Tour, WTA Tour, Australian Open (to Jan. 26).

LUGE, Igls, Austria — luge. FIL, World Championships (to Jan. 19).

TUESDAY, JAN. 14

SKIING, Adelboden, Switzerland — men, Alpine World Cup, giant slalom; Predazzo, Italy — FIS, Nordic World Cup, Nordic combined (to Jan. 15).

CRICKET Sydney, Australia — one-day international, West Indies vs. Pakistan.

BADMINTON, Tokyo — Japan National Badminton Association, Yonex Japan Open '97 (to Jan. 19).

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 15

SOCCER, Paris — UEFA, European Super Cup, final, first-leg, Paris St. Germain vs. Juventus.

GOLF, Indian Wells, California — men, U.S. PGA Tour, Bob Hope Chrysler Classic (to Jan. 19).

THURSDAY, JAN. 16

CRICKET, Melbourne, Australia — one-day international, Pakistan vs. Australia; Johannesburg, South Africa — cricket, South Africa vs. India, third test.

BIATHLON, Antholz, Italy — World Cup event (to Jan. 19).

DIVING, Sydney — Grand Prix event (to Jan. 19).

BASKETBALL, Men's EuroLeague second preliminary round at various sites.

FRIDAY, JAN. 17

SKIING, Zwiesel, Germany — World Cup women's slaloms (2)/giant slalom (to Jan. 19); Blackcomb, Canada — men, women, Freestyle World Cup, acrosid, dual moguls, aerials, combined (to Jan. 19).

SPEEDSKATING, Malmo, Sweden — men, women, ISU, European Short Track Championships (to Jan. 19).

SOCCER, Oakland, Fresno, Fullerton, Pasadena, San Diego, Tempe, Ariz. — soccer exhibition, U.S. Cup '97, Peru, Denmark, Mexico, United States (to Jan. 22).

ATHLETICS, Montreal — IAAF indoor meeting.

SATURDAY, JAN. 18

SOCCER, Melbourne, Australia — Soccer Australia, four-nation tournament, South Korea, Norway, Australia, New Zealand, through Jan. 25.

RUGBY UNION, Five Nations: Dublin, Ireland — Ireland vs. France; Edinburgh, Scotland — Scotland vs. Wales.

CRICKET, Sydney, Australia — World Series, first final.

SKIING, Wengen, Switzerland — men, Alpine World Cup, downhill, slalom (to Jan. 19); Zwiesel, Germany — women, Alpine World Cup, super-giant slalom, slalom (to Jan. 19).

NORDIC SKIING, Lahti, Finland — men, women, Nordic World Cup, cross-country, women's 15K and relay, men's 30K and relay (to Jan. 19). St. Moritz, Switzerland — Nordic World Cup, Nordic combined (to Jan. 19).

SKI JUMPING, Sapporo, Japan — Nordic World Cup, 90K and 120K hill events (to Jan. 19).

BOBSLEDDING, Koenigssee, Germany — World Cup, two- and four-man (to Jan. 19).

SPEEDSKATING, Baselga Di Pine, Italy — men, women, World Cup (to Jan. 19).

JUDO, Osaka, Japan — women, World Women's Judo Federation, World Cup (to Jan. 19).

BOXING, Las Vegas — Oscar De La Hoya, United States, vs. Miguel Angel Gonzalez, Mexico, 12-round bout for De La Hoya's WBC super lightweight title; Konstantin Tszyu, Russia, vs. Leonardo Mas, United States, 12-round bout for Tszyu's IBF junior welterweight title; Michael Carbajal, United States, vs. Mauricio Pastrana, Colombia, 12-round bout for Carbajal's IBF flyweight title.

RALLYING, Monaco — Monte Carlo Rally (to Jan. 23), Monaco

SUNDAY, JAN. 19

FIGURE SKATING, Paris — European Championships (to Jan. 26)

ATHLETICS, Seville, Spain — men, women. IAAF World Cross Challenge.

INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT

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Bulls Show Rockets Who's Still the Boss

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Michael Jordan, Scottie Pippen and Dennis Rodman outplayed Hakeem Olajuwon, Clyde Drexler and Charles Barkley on Saturday night as the Chicago Bulls won the battle of National Basketball Association elite, 110-86, over the Houston Rockets.

One of the most hyped games of the season became just another lopsided victory for the defending champions.

NBA Roundup

whose 31-4 record is the league's best. Since Dec. 11, the Bulls are 14-1 overall and 10-0 at home.

The Rockets (28-10) came in with an NBA-best 15-2 road record, but suffered their most decisive loss of the season. They were playing their fourth game in five nights, all on the road. Houston is 6-7 after a 21-2 start.

In the matchup of terrific trios, Jordan, Pippen and Rodman got the best of Olajuwon, Drexler and Barkley in points (57-44), rebounds (31-21) and assists (18-9).

Jordan scored 32 points, Pippen had 17 points and Rodman grabbed 18 rebounds. They got support from the bench from Toni Kukoc (20 points) and Jason Caffey (12 points).

Olajuwon scored 29 points but missed several layups and short jumpers. Drexler scored seven points on 3-for-11 shooting. Barkley finished with 8 points — 12 under his average and as many as the low-scoring Rodman — and seven rebounds.

Houston led by 43-40 at halftime. The Bulls shot just 36 percent in the half but grabbed 11 offensive rebounds to stay close.

The Bulls trailed by 58-57 with four minutes left in the third before making three consecutive 3-pointers, one by Jordan and two by Pippen. After four Houston free throws, Kukoc made a 3-pointer for a 69-62 lead.

Knicks 112, Celtics 99 Patrick Ewing scored 30 points for the third time in four games and the sixth time this season to lead New York past Boston.

The Knicks have won their last 17 meetings with Boston, the longest streak ever by a Celtics opponent.

John Starks added 20 points, including 14 in the fourth quarter, and John Wallace had 19 points, a season high, as New York won its 12th straight home game and beat the Celtics for the second time in as many nights.

Raptors 123, Nets 106 Toronto set records by making 19 of 23 shots and scoring 48 points in building a 31-point first-quarter lead en route to an easy victory over New Jersey.

The Raptors' 48 points were a team record for a quarter and they came within two points of matching the NBA record for points in an opening quarter. Toronto also set a club standard by shooting 82.6 percent in the period and the marksmanship carried into the second quarter when the lead ballooned to 75-33.

With 28 points, Damon Stoudamire and Walt Williams led the Raptors, who won for only the second time in 15 road games this season, both against New Jersey.

Bullets 98, Cavaliers 85 In Cleveland, Rod Strickland scored 20 points, including three late jumpers that thwarted a Cleveland comeback, as Washington won its fourth straight game.

Cleveland, which lost its third game in a row, cut a 19-point halftime deficit to 85-76 with Terrell Brandon's jumper off the glass with 8:25 left.

But Strickland sank his third jumper in five possessions to push Washington's advantage to 94-82 with 4:58 to play.

Pistons 87, Jazz 77 Grant Hill had 19 points and 11 rebounds as Detroit handed Utah its eighth straight road loss.

The victory ended the Pistons' nine-game losing streak against Utah.

Timberwolves 95, Clippers 93 In Minneapolis, Stephon Marbury scored 20 points, including 13 in the fourth quarter as Minnesota rallied past the Los Angeles Clippers.

Tom Gugliotta scored 28 points and added seven assists and seven rebounds for the Wolves, who have won eight of 10 games.

Hawks 87, Spurs 82 Steve Smith scored six points in the final 1:38 of overtime, giving Atlanta its third straight overtime victory as the Hawks extended their winning streak at home to 13.

Atlanta's third consecutive overtime victory tied an NBA record shared by 10 other teams. The Hawks defeated Phoenix in overtime Tuesday and Orlando on Thursday.

Christian Laettner, who led Atlanta with 26 points, gave the Hawks the lead to stay at 81-79 with a layup with 2:21 left.

Mavericks 104, Nuggets 99 George McCloud, a reserve, scored 21 points, including seven in the final 63 seconds, as Dallas beat Denver.

The game was the first at Reunion Arena for the Nuggets' coach, Dick Motta, since he was fired by the Mavericks after last season.

Kings 109, Grizzlies 101 Mitch Richmond scored 32 points and Sacramento earned its first road victory in more than a month.

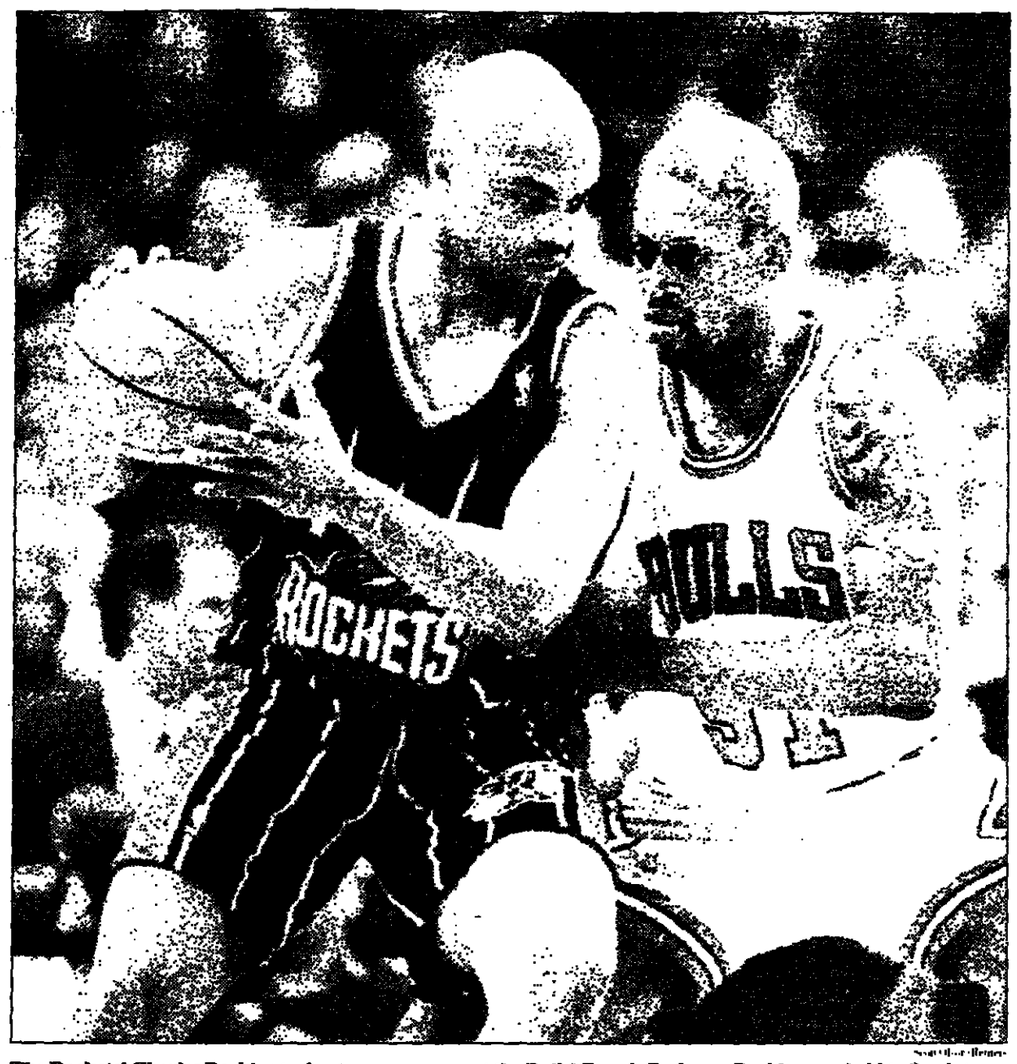
The NBA's fifth-leading scorer, Richmond shot 11-for-17 and added a season-high 13 assists. The Kings won on the road for just the fifth time this season and for the first time since defeating Minnesota on Dec. 3.

Shareef Abdur-Rahim, a rookie, had a career- and franchise-high 37 points for Vancouver.

Sonics 92, Pacers 82 Detlef Schrempf had four steals as Seattle forced 23 turnovers, held Reggie Miller to 11 points and beat Indiana with smothering defense in Seattle.

Miller only took eight shots in 33 minutes, with the exception of Rik Smits' 20-point performance, the Pacers struggled.

Hersey Hawkins led the Sonics with 19 points on 9-for-12 shooting. He scored 10 points in the opening quarter and seven in the fourth quarter when Seattle opened up a 90-76 lead with two minutes remaining.



The Rockets' Charles Barkley trying to maneuver past the Bulls' Dennis Rodman. Barkley was held to 8 points.

Cowboy's Irvin Is Innocent, Police Say

By Christine Biederman
New York Times Service

DALLAS — A woman has recanted her charges that she was raped by a Dallas Cowboys offensive lineman, Erik Williams, and that his teammate, Michael Irvin, held a gun to her head, the police have said.

"Through the investigation process, we have determined conclusively that the allegations are not true and that a sexual assault did not take place," a Dallas police spokesman, Ed Spencer, said at a news conference Friday night.

The police said they were continuing their investigation of the 23-year-old Dallas woman, who they said could be charged with a misdemeanor for filing a false police report.

The announcement came after the police confronted the woman with growing evidence that contradicted her story, including the statement of a third man who the woman told the police had participated in the rape. At that point, the woman recanted her allegations, the police said.

Although the police declined to answer questions about their investigation, Royce West, an attorney for Irvin, said: "The police jumped the gun, but did the department right the ship? Yes, they did. Michael took a beating from many of you in the media. I don't know what can be done in the way of making reparations."

Peter Ginsberg, Williams's attorney, said: "We are thrilled that the police have confirmed what Erik has said all along. On the other hand we are obviously distressed that an unworthy source can make horrific allegations that are endorsed by the police in an unfair and unprofessional manner."

Irvin said after the police announcement: "Rerun it, rewrite it, reprint it. Just like you did, with the same intensity that you did."

According to the woman's affidavit, she said that she was assaulted Dec. 29 at Williams's house by Williams and a third man, who has not been publicly identified. She said that Irvin held a gun to her head before the assault.

The allegations surfaced as the Cowboys were in the midst of another playoff run, and it proved to be a major distraction. The Cowboys lost to the Carolina Panthers six days after the allegations were first reported.

Friday night, coach Barry Switzer said he was pleased by the vindication of his players: "We were confident. We knew it would come out this way."

'Free Agent Fan' Seeks New Home

By Scott Bowles
Washington Post Service

THE LETTER, Michael Volpe admits, started as an attempt to blow off steam at his once-favorite baseball team, the San Francisco Giants, for making what he saw as another boneheaded trade.

But he kept writing, and fuming. He remembered all the times the Giants — the team he had followed since the 1950s — released a player to save money, raised the price of a bleacher ticket, dumped a treasured play-by-play man or packed up and moved to a city with a shinier stadium.

By the time he finished the letter that November morning, Volpe had declared himself a "free agent fan," sparking an unprecedented bidding war — for his loyalty. In letters to every other major league team, Volpe, 44, offered his fealty to one club that could prove it was worth rooting for.

In doing so, the Virginia professor and business consultant has become baseball's hottest prospect, a symbol to team owners of the typical fan: angry, disenchanted with the sporting world's obsession with money, ready to throw in the towel.

More than a dozen major league clubs and three minor league teams have written or telephoned. On Thursday, the Baltimore Orioles' general manager had him over for a lunch of crab cakes. He has appeared on radio and television and is getting calls from other fans cheering him on.

Volpe is savoring the irony.

"It's playing their game, sure," he said of his free agency pose. "But somebody needed to get the message across that fans are the most important part of the game, not profits and ticket sales."

The message has resonated, said Martin Ford, a sports psychologist, because "fans are feeling abandoned by their teams. In all sports, but especially baseball."

"A fan is making an emotional investment when he pulls for a team," said Ford, who also is a professor of education at George Mason University. "But particularly in the past half-dozen years, that's been hard to do, as teams make decisions based more on financial criteria than fan loyalty. As teams get rid of a fan's hero, they're casting aside the fan, too."

Volpe said baseball was losing young fans to other sports, and he said he was disappointed that the movers and shakers of the sport, including acting commissioner Bud Selig and players union chief Donald Fehr — both received copies of the letter — had yet to acknowledge it.

Officials from 13 clubs have responded, mostly with general promises that their teams would be fun to watch. But the answer from John Maroon, public relations director for the Orioles, was more involved.

"Fans are the straw that stirs the game," he said. "If we forget that, baseball is going to be in trouble. The important thing is not that he picks the Orioles; the important thing is that he picks a baseball team."

Maroon set up the lunch between Volpe and General Manager Pat Gillick. The team threw in a jersey with his name emblazoned on the back.

"It was a good lunch," Volpe said. "Gillick had a lot of good points. When I asked him about role models for my kids, he said he had two words: Cal Ripken."

Volpe said he had two of his own: Roberto Alomar, the Orioles infielder who spat in the face of an umpire last season. Gillick, Volpe said, "seemed to really regret that. He said it was an unfortunate incident."

Volpe's own sports career never eclipsed childhood stickball games in lower Manhattan. His only baseball ambition was for the Giants to stop making misguided trades.

"I've been a fan since I was a kid," he said. "I stuck with them when they left town for San Francisco, even through all of those very bad years in the '70s."

But when Volpe saw a midnight news flash that Giants stalwart Matt Williams — a slugger who was immensely popular with the fans — had been traded to the Cleveland Indians, it was the last straw. He marched upstairs and woke his wife, Mary Beth Volpe, to break the news. She asked him who Matt Williams was.

"I've never read a sports section in my life," she said. "I guess opposites attract. But I told him he should write an angry letter to the Giants. I just wanted to get back to sleep."

Volpe even got a letter from the Arizona Diamondbacks, an expansion team set to join the league in 1998. They offered this enticement: "Possibly being in the National League, you will be able to root against the San Francisco Giants often."

That may not be easy. Volpe says that although most of his Giants memorabilia is gone, the memories remain, ingrained in a childhood marked by evenings at the ballpark or sitting in front of a small black-and-white television. "I still remember being 10 years old, watching the World Series, my face glued to the television while I ate a TV dinner on a Quickdraw McGraw TV tray," he said. "A part of me will always be a Giants fan."

Which makes the modern game such a bittersweet experience for him. For Volpe and millions of baseball fans, professional athletes have become less role models than cautionary tales.

Deadmarsh's Late Goal Lifts Avalanche

The Associated Press

Patrick Roy kept Colorado in the game with his superb goaltending and Adam Deadmarsh's goal with 1:31 remaining gave the Avalanche a 3-2 victory Saturday night over the Maple Leafs in Toronto.

Sandis Ozolinsh and Keith Jones also scored for the Avalanche, who are unbeaten in their last 10 games, even

NHL Roundup

though they are without six injured players, including stars Joe Sakic, Peter Forsberg and Mike Ricci.

Penguins 3, Senators 3 Pittsburgh extended its unbeaten streak to 11 games and rookie goaltender Patrick Lalime ran his unbeaten streak to 13 with a tie against Ottawa.

Stu Barnes scored for Pittsburgh at 6:41 of the third period to tie it 3-3.

With the tie, Lalime (11-0-2) matched the former Philadelphia goalie Bob Froese with the third-longest unbeaten streak in NHL history. Froese went 12-0-1 during the 1982-83 season.

Flyers 3, Capitals 3 In Philadelphia, Rod Brind'Amour scored with 43 seconds remaining as Philadelphia rallied to tie Washington. Washington is unbeaten in its last five games.

John LeClair and John Druce also scored for the Flyers. Peter Bondra, Joe Juneau and Sylvain Cote scored Washington's goals during a two-minute stretch in the second period, including two on an extended power play.

Canadiens 5, Bruins 3 Montreal scored four times in three minutes in the second period, rallying from a two-goal deficit to beat Boston.

After Adam Oates gave Boston a 2-0 lead 53 seconds into the second period, Scott Thornton, Mark Recchi, Benoit Brunet and Stephane Richer scored on consecutive shots to chase goaltender Robbie Tallas.

The win gave the Canadiens a split of the home-and-home series. The Bruins beat Montreal 5-4 Thursday in Boston, ending Montreal's season-high seven-game unbeaten streak.

Islanders 4, Lightning 4 Igor Ulanov's shot from the left point completed a two-goal third-period comeback as Tampa tied the visiting New York Islanders.

New York, which blew a lead entering the final period, snapped a six-game losing streak.

Blackhawks 3, Red Wings 1 In Detroit, Chicago goaltender Ed Belfour ended a personal 10-game winless streak, stopping 32 shots as the Blackhawks beat slumping Detroit.

Belfour had a 3-0 lead and was looking for his 31st career shutout before Brendan Shanahan scored on a power-play for Detroit with 5:19 left.

Sharks 2, Oilers 1 Defenseman Vlastimil Kroupa's power-play goal midway through the third period gave San Jose a victory in Edmonton.

Kroupa, playing his sixth game of the season for San Jose, fired a low shot from the blue line that went between the pads of Edmonton goalie Curtis Joseph, who was screened on the play.

Panthers 4, Flames 1 All-star starter John Vanbiesbrouck made 40 saves and Ray Sheppard had a goal and an assist as visiting Florida beat Calgary.

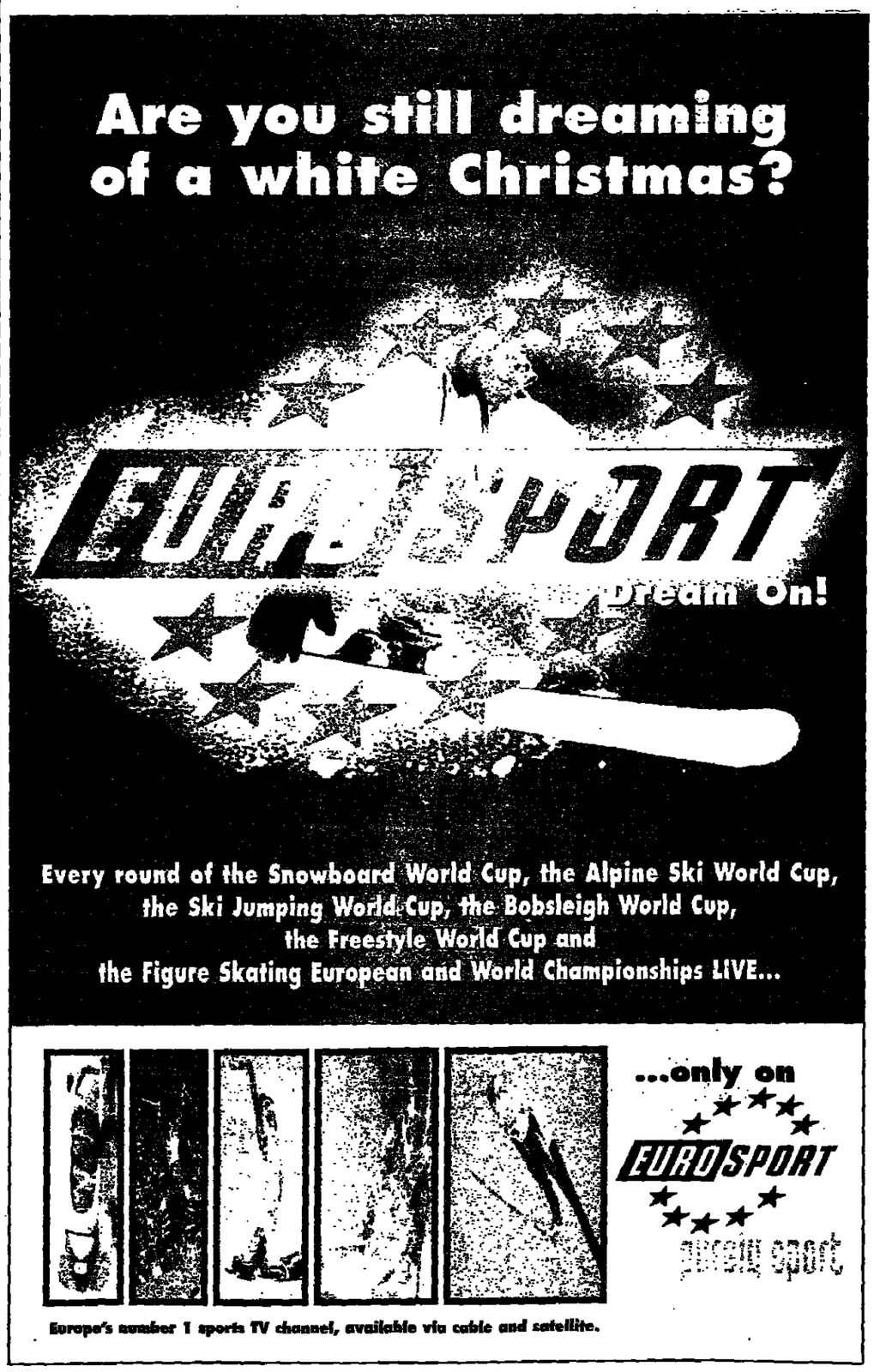
Tom Fitzgerald opened the scoring for Florida 3:34 into the game. Less than two minutes later, Sheppard made it two goals on their first three shots as the Panthers went ahead to stay.

Vanbiesbrouck, who will start for the Eastern Conference in Saturday's all-star game in San Jose, was sharp throughout — especially in the first period, when the Panthers were outshot 18-13 but escaped with a 2-1 lead.

Kings 2, Blues 1 Dimitri Khristich scored with 33 seconds to play and Kevin Stevens stretched his scoring streak to three games with a power-play goal as Los Angeles beat St Louis.

Byron Dafoe started for the first time in five games and his 27 saves helped the Kings stretch their winning streak to three games, matching their season high.

Brett Hull scored on a power play for the Blues.



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TOMORROW

Herald Tribune
SPORTS

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Tiger Pounces

GOLF Tiger Woods stuck his tee shot at the first playoff hole within nine inches and tapped in for a birdie Sunday to beat Tom Lehman in the Mercedes Championship.

After rain forced the cancellation of the final round of the PGA tour opener in Carlsbad, California, Lehmann and Woods, the joint leaders, went to a playoff.

Woods collected $216,000 for first place, which took him to $1 million in total winnings in just his ninth PGA start. The previous fastest millionaire was Ernie Els, who took 27 events.

Woods had shot a 65, the lowest round of the tournament Saturday, to catch Lehmann the leader after two rounds at 14 under. *(AP, NYT)*

• Annika Sorenstam, who was married eight days ago, shot a 6-under-par 66 to win the LPGA Tournament of Champions by four shots.

"I'm walking on clouds," she said. "I'm really happy inside, and I think that helped my golf game."

Sorenstam finished at 272, 16 under par at the Weston Hills Country Club. She earned $115,000. Karrie Webb shot a 70 and finished second at 276. *(AP)*

Lara Hits Rapid 90

CRICKET Brian Lara smashed 90 runs Sunday, and the West Indies scored 96 runs in the last 10 overs to beat Australia by four wickets in Perth in the World Series Cup. The result eliminated Australia from the three-team tournament.

Mark Waugh made 92 as Australia reached 267 runs for seven wickets in its 50 overs. The West Indies overhauled that total with four balls to spare. *(Reuters)*

Norris Keeps Titles

BOXING Terry Norris held onto his junior middleweight titles on Saturday, pummeling Canadian Nick Rupa, who stood up to more punishment than seemed humanly possible before the fight was stopped in the 10th round.

There were three other title fights on the card in Nashville, Tennessee. Khalid Rahilou of France took American Frankie Randall's World Boxing Association junior welterweight crown.

Felix Trinidad, the undefeated International Boxing Federation welterweight champion, came off the canvas in the second round and put away Briton Kevin Lueshing in the third.

Henry Akinwande retained the lightly regarded World Boxing Organization heavyweight crown with a lopsided decision over fellow Briton Scott Welch. *(Reuters)*

• In Boston, Daniel Zaragoza of Mexico narrowly held his World Boxing Council junior bantamweight title with a split decision win over Ireland's Wayne McCullough in a bloody bout. *(AP)*

Wales Beats U.S. Eagles

RUGBY UNION United States flanker Jay Wilkerson was suspended Sunday by his own coach, Jack Clark, for kicking Wales hooker Garin Jenkins during a 34-14 defeat in Cardiff on Saturday.

Clark banned Wilkerson for four weeks after watching a video of the incident.

Wales had struggled to victory in an unconvincing warmup for the Five Nations' championship starting next weekend. *(Reuters)*

Palmer Seeks Treatment

GOLF Arnold Palmer piloted his private plane to Minnesota Sunday and will enter the Mayo Clinic for tests to determine a course of treatment for prostate cancer. Palmer, 67, found out Friday that a biopsy indicated he had cancer. *(AP)*

Packers Run Over Panthers and Into Super Bowl

Defense Shuts Down Carolina In a Frigid Green Bay, 30-13

The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wisconsin — The Green Bay Packers crushed the Carolina Panthers, 30-13, in the NFC championship game Sunday, a victory that put them in the Super Bowl for the first time since Vince Lombardi's powerhouse played and beat Dallas in the "Ice Bowl" 29 years ago.

This year's heroes were Brett Favre and Dorsey Levens, Antonio Freeman and Gilbert Brown, none of whom were born when Lombardi's team gave "Titletown, USA" its fifth National Football League championship in seven seasons.

The weather at 40-year-old Lambeau Field was not a big a factor this time.

It was 3 degrees at game time with a wind-chill that smacked it into minus-17 — but that was 20 degrees warmer than the January day in 1968 when Bart Starr's quarterback sneak behind Jerry Kramer put the Pack in the second Super Bowl.

Favre, whose two turnovers helped Carolina to an early lead, was 19 of 29 for 292 yards, including touchdown passes of 29 yards to Levens and 6 yards to Freeman.

Levens had 205 total yards — 88 yards on 10 carries and 117 yards on five catches, including a 66-yard ramble on a screen pass that set up Edgar Bennett's four-yard touchdown run.

The game was a contest for 29 minutes, until the Packers scored 10 points within 38 seconds in the first half's final minute to turn a 10-7 deficit into a 17-10 lead.

It was also a victory for sentiment. It means Reggie White, 35, the NFL's career sack leader, will go to his first Super Bowl, a goal that Favre and his teammates had aimed for all season.

"Green Bay, I hope you're proud of us because we're proud of you," White told the crowd of 60,216 after the game.

Carolina shocked the Packers by scoring 10 points after two turnovers by Favre.

But it came down to the run. Green Bay did and Carolina didn't. The Packers ran for 201 yards overall, the most against the Panthers this year.

Brown sealed the middle of the Packer defense, shutting down Carolina and forcing the Panthers to do what they would prefer not to do — pass.

So the Packers were running while the Panthers were leading, courtesy of an interception by Sam Mills off Favre that put the ball at the Green Bay 2, and led to Kerry Collins's three-yard touchdown pass to Howard Griffith. Score, 7-0, Carolina.

But on the final play of the first quarter, Levens caught Carolina's zone blitz defense heading the wrong way and broke a 35-yard run to the Panthers' 29. On the next play, the first of the second quarter, Favre found Levens for a touchdown that made it 7-7.

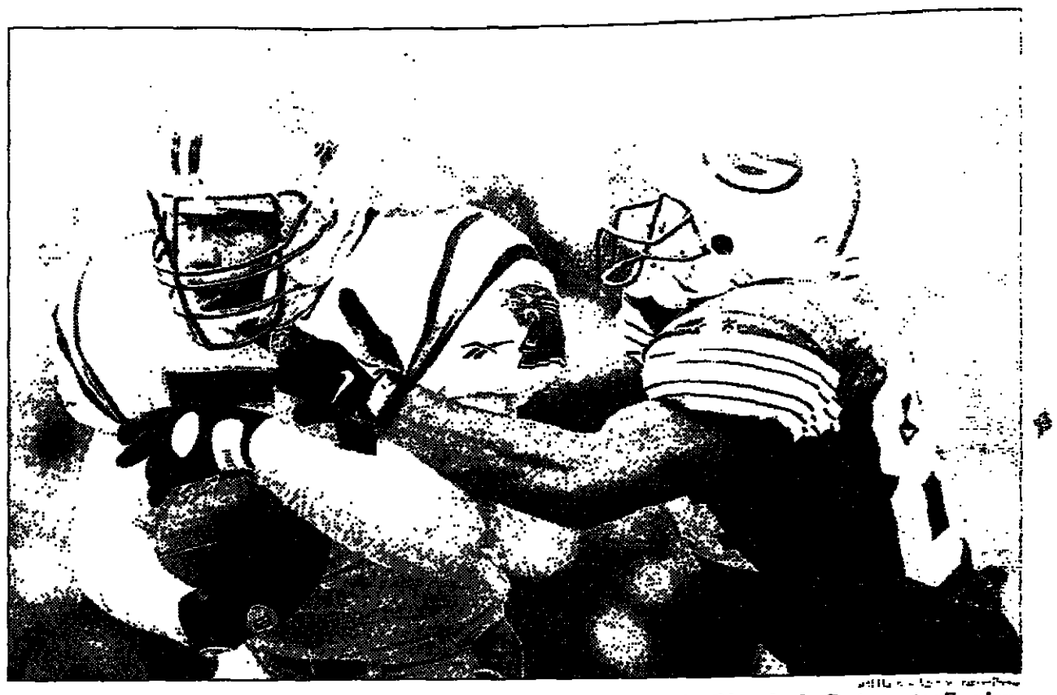
Mike Fox forced a fumble by Favre that set up John Kasay's 22-yard field goal that put Carolina ahead, 10-7.

Then the Packers took control.

First they drove 71 yards in 15 plays, chewing up 7 minutes 52 seconds, scoring on Favre's 6-yarder to Freeman with 48 seconds left in the half.

It didn't even matter that they were set back 15 yards for Freeman's illegal chop block — on the next play, Favre found Andre Rison for 22 yards.

On Carolina's next play, Green Bay's Tyrone Williams made a one-handed interception of Collins's deep pass. Favre came back and hit Rison for 23 and Freeman for 25 to set up Jacke's 31-yard field goal that made it 17-10 at halftime.



Sam Mills of the Pathers, left, intercepting a pass intended for Packers' Andre Rison in the first quarter Sunday.

It was 20-13 after Jacke and Kasay exchanged field goals. Then Favre and Levens again fooled the Carolina blitz with a screen that carried to the Panthers' 4. Bennett took it in with 1:58 left in the third quarter and it was 27-13.

Green Bay inserted Jim McMahon for Favre on the final series.

McMahon is one of two Packers with Super Bowl experience — he quarterbacked the Bears to a 46-10 win over the New England Patriots 11 years ago, also in New Orleans.

The Packers improved to 9-0 in the playoffs at their storied stadium and won their 18th straight overall there.

Green Bay missed a trip to the Super Bowl last season because of a 38-27 loss to Dallas in the NFC championship game. But this team, now 15-3, will head to New Orleans as the favorite over New England or Jacksonville to give the NFC its 13th straight title.

"This team, on occasion, just likes to test me a little bit," said Mike Holmgren, the Packer coach, as he accepted the NFC trophy, "and today was no different. We deserve this, but we're not finished yet."

Freeman said: "We weren't going to let it happen today like we did last year, when we lost it in the last 10 minutes."

■ A Pause That Refreshes

A power outage with 7:32 remaining in the first half delayed the AFC Championship game between the Jacksonville Jaguars and New England Patriots for 12 minutes, The Associated Press reported from Foxboro, Massachusetts.

With Adam Vinatieri lining up to try a 29-yard field goal, about half the lights on the towers above Foxboro Stadium went out. Both teams were sent to the sidelines, where they discussed strategy during the delay. When the game resumed, Vinatieri made the field goal, giving the Patriots a 10-3 lead.



Mark Baker/Reuters

Michael Chang reaching for a volley in the final of the Colonial Classic in Melbourne. Chang defeated Pete Sampras, the world No. 1, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Stars Sparse at Australian Open

Seles Injury Ruins Hopes of Showdown With Graf

New York Times Service

MELBOURNE — Once again, the Australian Open, the first of the yearly quartet of Grand Slam tennis tournaments, is struggling to compose a star-studded field of contenders.

Though the defending men's champion, Boris Becker, whose victory last year reversed a five-year slide into Grand Slam obscurity, booked a return engagement, the women's titleholder did not.

Last year Monica Seles, a four-time Australian Open champion, made a triumphant return to this hemisphere by capturing her first Grand Slam event since the 1993 Australian.

But this year, Seles, who has had chronic health problems since her comeback in August 1995, has seen her chance to defend her title spoiled by a freakish injury. Reaching out her right hand to palm a ball during an exhibition warm-up last month, the ambidextrous Seles bent and broke her ring finger.

So after previously spurning corrective shoulder surgery in part because it would have cost her the title defense she craved, Seles is out anyway.

Seles said she was "very disappointed," after realizing she would miss the tournament that put her back into No. 1 contention last season. Thanks to the new ranking system on the women's circuit, Seles's absence will leave her a distant No. 2 — at best.

Very disappointed was the way Australian officials felt, too, when they realized their 1997 Open, beginning Monday, would not offer a showdown between Seles and Steffi Graf, who has been absent from this event three times in the last five years but has made it her mission to compete this year. Like Seles, Graf is a four-time champion.

Like Graf, the resurgent Becker has found his tax records under investigation in his native Germany, but neither that distraction, nor the residual aches of a dozen years on the circuit, have hampered his plans to defend his title.

"Pain is normal," he said. "Sometimes it's the wrist, sometimes it's the knee or the back, but it really doesn't hamper my play. There's two sides to everything, but the good side is now that I'm very fresh and eager to play."

Becker, ranked sixth, was dominant last year against every opponent in the Top 5, including Pete Sampras.

"We've developed a little rivalry," said Sampras, a 1994 Australian Open champion who has won 10 of 17 meetings overall with Becker but lost two out of three in 1996. "I still find him a threat on any surface, and he'll definitely be a threat at the Australian, and a threat to the ranking."

Sampras said. "He's been doing this for 10 or 12 years and he wants to end his career on a positive note."

Now a relatively ancient 29, Becker says he finished 1996 playing the best tennis of his career after rebounding from a serious wrist injury incurred at Wimbledon. Certainly it was the richest season of his career: helped along by a $1.8 million payday for winning the Grand Slam Cup, Becker won a tour-leading $4 million last year.

Becker won Wimbledon as a teenager and, when his Grand Slam success dimmed after winning the 1991 Australian Open, he would always hint that he had "one Slam left" and that it would happen at Wimbledon. But he did not argue when it turned out to be the 1996 Australian Open that returned him to the Grand Slam winner's circle.

"Now I'm in the autumn of my career and I'm not taking anything for granted," Becker said after defeating Michael Chang in four sets in last year's finale.

Andre Agassi, the 1995 Australian Open champion, announced a month ago that he deemed this Grand Slam hazardous to his schedule and, like Jana Novotna, was skipping it by choice.

"I assessed what I would have to pull off and it became an impossibility," said Agassi, who made amends by volunteering for Davis Cup duty in Brazil next month. "I know I need to miss the Australian," said Agassi, who won here on his first attempt and has not won any Grand Slam since.

The men's side will also miss fourth-ranked Yevgeni Kafelnikov, the French Open champion, who broke his right hand last week; Wimbledon's champion, Richard Krajicek, who underwent knee surgery Dec. 9, and 12th-ranked Todd Martin, a 1994 finalist who withdrew because of a flare-up of tendinitis in his right shin.

The drain of male seeded players guaranteed that 19th-ranked Michael Stich, the 1991 Wimbledon champion whose surprise trip to the 1996 French Open final showed that he, like Becker, can be dangerous anyplace, will move into a seeded spot.

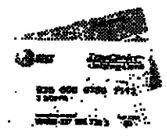
The two-time champion Courier, whose recent title in Doha, Qatar, has already equaled his title output from last year and moved his ranking to 15th, is hoping to again be a threat. Courier is 30-5 at this event. Only Becker (29-8) and Sampras (23-5) have had comparable success in Melbourne.

• Mark Philippoussis of Australia withdrew from the Australian Open Sunday with an arm injury. He was to play Tim Henman of Britain in the first round Monday. *(AP)*

Vantage Point / **ROBIN FINN**



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